

Continental Marine

A vertical line of five Marines rappelling down a rope in a tropical setting. The Marines are in various stages of descent, with some already on the ground and others still high up. The background shows lush green trees and a clear sky.

Summer 2002

Vol. 26, No. 2

4th MAW Awards

Arctic Care

JCIET '02

Rolling Thunder

Operation Weedeater :

4th ANGLICO HMM-764
support counterdrug ops
in Trinidad

<http://www.mfr.usmc.mil>

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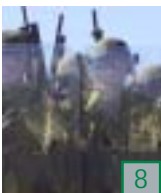
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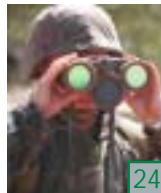
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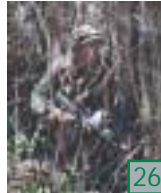
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Back: La. – Zachary Koehler patiently waits for his father, Sgt. Jerry Koehler, to return home after a six-month activation. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

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Marine Forces Reserve

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Editor's note: We need your help to tell the Marine Corps story! Send us any photos you may have from your Annual Training, along with background information on your AT and unit to Webmaster@mfr.usmc.mil. Get published in the Continental Marine. For more information, call (504) 678-4179.

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COMMAND PAGE

Lt. Gen. Dennis M. McCarthy, Commander, Marine Forces Reserve

It is not over

We began to mobilize individual Marines almost immediately after the startling events of last September. We continued through the Fall, mobilizing more individuals and several small detachments. In January, we began to mobilize major formations – battalions and squadrons. Now some are starting to demobilize and come home. But, be assured, it is not over.

The word “it” in the preceding sentence refers to mobilization – of individual Marines, Sailors and their Marine Forces Reserve units. And I will say again for emphasis, it is not over.

Our biggest enemy at the moment may be complacency. We have lived through the immediate rush of emotions surrounding an attack on our country, and the response to that attack. We have sent Marines – both active and reserve – into harm’s way around the world. We have seen almost 5,000 members of our Force called to duty at home and abroad. Families have adjusted to the new reality of “reserve service.” This new reality may start to seem routine. Those who have not yet been called to duty may be thinking that the need has passed. That is simply not the case.

I certainly don’t have a definite timeline for anyone in the Force. There is no certain date by which anyone must be ready. We must all be ready all the time. As hard as that is, continuous personal and professional readiness is a part of being a Marine. Nowhere is that more true than in Marine Forces Reserve.

One of the most important aspects of the readiness we need involves our families. Whether that “family” consists of spouse, children, parents or siblings, each Marine in the Force has a family which must be prepared if it is to survive and thrive during periods of their Marine’s absence from home.

In Marine Forces Reserve we have a strong Family



Readiness program. It consists of two main elements – the Key Volunteer Network and the L.I.N.K.S. program. I ask each Marine and Sailor who reads this to check out your unit’s Family Readiness programs. Make sure you are connected with your Key Volunteer Network! Find out whether the L.I.N.K.S. program can help someone in your family, and if so, how and when they can attend a L.I.N.K.S. session. Also, I need all of you to please address the follow-

ing family readiness items ASAP:

- *Military/Dependent Identification cards, including those dependents that are in college
- *DEERS enrollment/verification
- *Family Care Plans for single parents or dual military parents
- *Powers of Attorney
- *Wills
- *Ensure all of you have a copy of “What’s Next? A Guide to Family Readiness.” This workbook will assist family members with managing their personal affairs.

It is highly recommended that you attend a basic TRICARE presentation.

The next time you are with your unit, evaluate your unit’s Family Readiness program. Find out how the program impacts you, and ask what contributions you can make to its success.

Mobilization is not over. We must all continue to be prepared, and to make sure our families are prepared. Take some action now, while there is still time.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dennis M. McCarthy".

MARFORRES

Command Page

Marine Forces Reserve Welcomes Sgt. Maj. Dixon

Sgt. Sam Kille

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

NEW ORLEANS – Sgt. Maj. Robin W. Dixon was posted as the senior enlisted advisor of Marine Forces Reserve during a ceremony, here, May 24. With nearly 90,000 enlisted Marines, Marine Forces Reserve is the largest command in the Corps.

Dixon relieved Sgt. Maj. Richard I. Thornton, who is retiring after 30 years of faithful service to the Marine Corps. Thornton, a native of Baltimore, Md., had held the position since June 2000. He and his wife, Teri, plan to reside in Raymore, Mo., where he is looking forward to teaching middle school.

Prior to his arrival, Dixon served as the sergeant major of the 3rd Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan. Past duties included service in Northern Iraq as the first sergeant of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, during Operations Provide



Lance Cpl. M.D. Kibel

Sgt. Maj. Robin W. Dixon receives a sword from Lt. Gen. Dennis M. McCarthy, commander of Marine Forces Reserve, during a relief and appointment ceremony in New Orleans.

Comfort, Encourage Hope, and Force Hope in 1991. Dixon also served as

the detachment commander at the American Embassy in Bamako, Mali, in 1988, and as a drill instructor with Co. E, 2nd Recruit Training Bn., at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Ca., from 1981-84.

A graduate of Williston High School, Williston, Fla., in June 1975, Dixon reported for recruit training at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., Nov. 24, 1975. Upon completion of boot camp, he attended Aviation Maintenance School at Naval Air Station Millington, Tenn.

Dixon's decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two stars in lieu of subsequent award, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal with one star.

Dixon is married to the former Katie K. Jones of Williston, Fla. They have two children, Michael, 23, and Julie, 18.



MFR has friend in Europe



Official USMC Photo

Sgt. Maj. John M. Mersino, former 4th Marine Division sergeant major, now serves as sergeant major, U. S. European Command.

"As I tour Europe on all my site visits, the reserves of all the services are not only pulling their fair share, but contributing significantly to Operation Enduring Freedom in ways we wouldn't have imagined. I am proud of my service with your 4th Marine Division and how that experience has allowed me to "chime in" on what our reserves bring to the fight. I will continue to spread the word."

4th FSSG gets new Sgt. Maj.

Sgt. Maj. Thomas H. Howard took over as the sergeant major for the 4th Force Service Support Group, New Orleans, during a relief and appointment ceremony held June 15.

Howard, who took the place of Sgt. Maj. Brownloe Price, came to New Orleans after serving as the sergeant major for the 1st Marine Corps District, Garden City, N.Y.



Official USMC Photo

Texas Marines return home from Operation Enduring Freedom

Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

NAVAL AIR STATION FORT WORTH, Texas – After two months of flying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, two aircrews and their KC-130T aircraft from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 234, Detachment A were welcomed home, here, May 7.

A four-plane detachment from VMGR-234, was activated in late January and deployed two of its aircrews to an airfield in Pakistan, Feb. 25. They were integrated with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit's VMGR-352.

"We were very fortunate to be with the Marines from 352," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Vincent W. Brown, navigation officer, VMGR-234, Det. A. "The transition went smoothly, and we accomplished our mission."

The mission of the detachment's 55 Marines was to provide support for the 13th MEU's ground forces in Afghanistan. Because Afghanistan is landlocked, sea-based helicopters flew supplies to Pakistan. From there, the KC-130s transported supplies and fuel to forward supply points.

"Most of our missions were at night, so night vision was essential for the flight crews who would bring the supplies another 500 miles inland," said Lt. Col. Bradley S. James, commander, VMGR-234, Det A.

According to James, most of the missions took anywhere between 6-8 hours to complete. Marines worked in 12-hour shifts daily.

"It felt pretty good to use the training we've been implementing for a long time," said James.

The bulk of their prior training was in the southwestern United States. Because of this, it took them no time to get acclimated to their desert surroundings, said Brown.

"We were extremely satisfied taking on the war on terror-



PH2 Jake Hollingsworth

Staff Sgt. Joseph Sagastume embraces his wife after returning home from Operation Enduring Freedom.

ism, and showing the world that a reserve unit can take care of business—just as well as an active one," said Sgt. Charles A. Heimer, airplane mechanic.

The reserve Marines not only brought valuable experience to Central Asia, but also equipment. The two KC-130T's they brought to Pakistan were in great shape and had minimal problems.

"Our planes held up well and accomplished every mission they flew on," said Heimer.

And so did the Marines of VMGR-234 Det. A—they left Texas ready, willing and able, and they successfully completed all of their missions.

"It was a little disappointing to come home before we got in the thick of things, but it feels good to know we did our job while we were over there," said Heimer.



MARFORRES

News Line

MOBILIZATION UPDATE

The past few months have seen a combination of mobilizing individual reserves and units as well as deactivating individuals and units as the requirements change in the ongoing Global War on Terrorism. Two platoons from B Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines, were the first to come home. Among the first activated in early November, the Bossier City Marines served in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and then augmented security at Camp Lejeune and Newport News, Va. TOW Platoon, Headquarters Company, 25th Marines, Chicopee, Mass. and TOW Section, Weapons Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines, Broken Arrow, Okla., which augmented 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, were also deactivated. Most of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 769, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., has deactivated. A two-plane detachment remains on active duty to support the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

For a complete list of activated units, visit the Marine Forces Reserve website at <http://www.mfr.usmc.mil>.

Reserves sweep USMC Merit Awards for safety

Two Reserve units took top honors in the Fiscal Year 2001 Marine Corps Safety Awards.

Fourth Landing Support Battalion, headquartered in Ft. Lewis, Wash., received the Merit Award for units with 1000-4999 members. Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 321, based at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. took the award for units with less than 1000 members. Merit Awards recognize units for the significant contributions they made to the Marine Corps safety program by reducing mishaps and increasing mission readiness.



4th Marine Aircraft Wing tops in safety

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

For the fourth time in the last five years (and the sixth time in the last decade), 4th Marine Aircraft Wing has been selected as the winner of the Chief of Naval Operations Readiness Through Safety Award and the Daedalians Adm. James S. Russell Aviation Flight Safety Award.

These prestigious awards are presented annually to only one Type Commander in the Department of the Navy for contributing the most toward readiness and economy of operations through safety. The command selected must have an outstanding safety record and an aggressive safety program.

The reserve MAW flew over 40,000 hours with no Class A or B flight, flight related or aviation ground mishaps in 2001.

The professionalism and maturity that the 4th MAW personnel bring with them allow them to maintain such high standards, said Lt. Col. Scott E. Stebbins, director of safety and standardization for 4th MAW.

"They want to be part of it, they want to be there and

they want to do a good job," said Stebbins.

Brig. Gen. Jack Bergman, the commanding general of 4th MAW, also nominated four units for CNO Safety Awards. Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 142 and Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773, both based in Marietta, Ga., Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 452, Stewart Air National Guard Base, N.Y., and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 774, Norfolk, Va., were recognized for their safety programs and records.

"They do things by the book and take outstanding care of their aircraft," said Stebbins.

Additionally, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 775, Camp Pendleton, Calif., was selected to receive the 2001 Pete Ross Safety Award. The award, named for distinguished World War II flier, 1st Lt. Joseph F. "Pete" Ross, is given annually to a 4th MAW unit for attaining a superior aviation record. The unit's name is inscribed on a 50-pound trophy made of silver and gold that is kept on permanent display at the Marine Corps Aviation Association in Quantico, Va.

MARFORRES

News Line

Marines and sailors from 1/23 take line at Gitmo

Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

U.S. NAVAL BASE GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba –

Two platoons from B Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines arrived here March 19 to relieve their company-mates who have been guarding the fence line for the last four months.

The replacements, approximately 110 Marines and sailors, from Detachment A, B Co., 1st Bn., 23rd Mar., Austin, Texas and Weapons Platoon, Det. A, B Co., 1st Bn., 23rd Mar., Houston, Texas, were activated on Jan. 31.

In early Nov. 2001, two platoons from B Co. (-), 1st Bn., 23rd Mar., in Bossier City, La., were activated and deployed here to provide installation security and free up two active duty Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team platoons for other missions.

Before deploying to Cuba, the Texas Marines spent two weeks training at Camp Bullis, Texas, where they completed rifle and pistol qualifications and the first level of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. Afterward, they went to Norfolk, Va., for three weeks of training with Marine Corps Security Force Battalion personnel to prepare for the security mission.

Special training included basic security guard skills, non-lethal weapons employment, close combat and riot control.

“Although this is a first-time activation for many of the



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

A group of the second rotation from B Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines, learn the lay of the land at U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where they are providing security for four months.

junior Marines, I am confident they will do well,” said Capt. Michael J. Fedor, a platoon commander from Fairhope, Ala. “They have all been to basic training, the School of Infantry and have had five weeks of preparation.”

One of the junior Marines is Lance Cpl. Tim L. Siegel, of Houston. “I was nervous at first and I didn’t know what to expect,” said Siegel. “Now, I am glad that I am here and feel like I am doing something for my country.”

Siegel and others will benefit from the leadership of the platoons’ seasoned non-commissioned officers, many of whom have previously served on active duty.

“Many of us took serious pay cuts when we were activated. We feel that it is necessary for us to be here and share our experience and knowledge with the younger troops who will be leading us in the future,” said Sgt. Jon M. Ginter, a platoon guide and Dallas native.

“The junior Marines will come back with much more than a life experience,” added Sgt. Chadd E. Jackson, a platoon sergeant of the guard from Tyler, Texas. “They will come back with maturity and leadership that you just cannot get from two days a month and two weeks a year. Realizing that they are standing security along the fence line of a communist country will be an eye opener.”

CM



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

Marines from Security Forces load rounds into the M-240G during live-fire training at U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The Marines are part of the second rotation from B Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines.

MARFORRES

News Line

2/23 gears up to take part in the homeland defense force



Cpl. Danielle M. Bacon

Marines from 2/23 pepper-sprayed role players acting as a violent mob outside a mock U.S. embassy, here, during a riot control training exercise March 19.

Cpl. Daniel M. Bacon

Camp Pendleton Public Affairs Office

CAMP PENDLETON – “Back up - back up - back up!” The words rang through the air like a rhythmic drum keeping time for their steady march forward to protect a food supply truck from an angry mob. Their mission: seal off the truck from rioters and escort it into the U.S. embassy compound.

Striking batons against full-body plastic shields, reserve Marines with the 23rd Marine Regiment cleared a path through an “angry” crowd so the supply truck could reach the “embassy” - a baseball field at Camp Margarita here. It was all part of riot-control training March 19.

The squad of about 25 Marines practiced applying the continuum of force, starting at nonlethal before escalating to lethal or deadly, said Staff Sgt. Ronald Parrish, a nonlethal weapons instructor for Special Operations Training Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force, at Camp

Lejeune, N.C.

The training group trained Marines from 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, on how to use the riot gear and different types of force. The students in turn will teach the rest of the battalion.

“We are here to help make 2/23 self-sustaining,” said Capt. James Farrelly, officer-in-charge of SOTG.

The reservists were activated in February to relieve Marines from 1st Marine Division as a homeland defense force.

With angry mob noise playing over loudspeakers in the background, two members of the protesting group charged the riot’s barricade - and took pepper spray in their faces.

The SOTG instruc-

tors escorted three of the stunned mob members to a water hose to rinse out their eyes.

Instructors watched and critiqued every move.

After being pulled from the truck and “beaten,” Lance Cpl. Timothy Dicarolo, the driver of the food supply truck, pleaded with Marines not to harm his attackers. “Don’t hurt them. Don’t hurt them. They are innocent. Don’t hurt them,” as he crawled to safety.

The riot control group once again marched forward 10 steps, chanting with each step, “One, two, three, four ... 10.”

On a bullhorn, Marines from the riot-control group tried to get the mayor of the mob to come and reach an agreement.

He didn’t comply, so the Marines advanced again, “One, two, three, four ... 10.”



Cpl. Danielle M. Bacon

Plastic shields protected 2/23 Marines from an angry mob during a riot control exercise held at Camp Margarita March 19.

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News Line

This time, two Marines from the riot-control group threw two mock smoke grenades. No reaction. Again they stepped.

Just as they stopped, two men from the mob ran forward with a rope to trip the Marines. The Marines received an order to shoot.

"You are now dead," Parrish said to the two.

Later, during a brief, the Marines learned a valuable lesson. They had used excessive force and strayed from the rules of engagement.

After the shootings, riot control advanced within 30 feet of the mob, which had diminished to fewer than 15 people.

A mob member wearing thick padding charged at the row of shields.

"I felt like a sumo wrestler. That padding makes movement very awkward," said Pfc. Michael Mughadam, an administration clerk for Headquarters Company, still wearing the bulky black gear.

The riot-controllers pushed Mughadam aside on multiple occasions. The remaining rioters kept their distance as the Marines made way for the truck's entrance into the compound and followed it on in.

Once inside the "safe zone," group leaders were critiqued on the platoon's movement and their adherence to the rules of engagement while mob members washed the spray out of their eyes.

"If you run, it doesn't burn as bad," coached spray victim Lance Cpl. Dexter Cai.

Reserve Marines share hardships when activated

Cpl. Daniel M. Bacon

Camp Pendleton Public Affairs Office

Lifestyle changes, separation from family members and pay shortfalls worried many reservists about being activated after the terrorist attacks on the United States.

Since Sept. 11, 4,500 Marine reservists have been activated as part of a homeland defense force - including 909, who make up 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, and currently live and train on Camp Pendleton.

"It is amazing to see what the Marines have given up for their commitment," said Sgt. Maj. Jon Barter, battalion sergeant major, referring to a story about a Marine who gave up a high-income job at the Olympics to come to Pendleton. "I am not sure who that Marine is, but it is one of many stories I have heard since we activated the full regiment in February."

Although individual Marines made many sacrifices, Barter said, he did not see any problems during activation.

Some were surprised the call didn't come sooner.

"I was really surprised it took that long to activate us. I was sure I would be getting a call just a few days after the crash," said Cpl. Rosendo Ruiz, who sets up computers for 23rd Marines. He was working for Nortel Networks when the call-up came.

Many Marines took large pay cuts to return to active duty.

"I was worried about coming on active duty, because I

didn't know how I would take care of my family with the pay difference," said Lance Cpl. Juan Ramos, an admin clerk with 23rd Marines.

Ramos, who subcontracts for Pacific Bell, makes \$75,000 a year, but had never served on active duty during four years in the reserves.

The hardest thing is being away from his Sacramento-based family, including his 2-year-old son.

"Not being able to watch your little kid running around calling your name is hard," he said.

Even reservists without children say active duty is a hardship.

"The lifestyle change is very difficult - not being able to just go home," Ruiz said. "It is funny - when I left active duty, I could sleep anywhere. My girlfriend talked me into buying this really comfortable bed, and now I can't sleep in these racks at all.

"You get spoiled by living one lifestyle, and then all of a sudden, you can no longer live like that."

Despite pay cuts and separation from family, many from 23rd Marines are glad to be here.

"I was happy to come back and have a hand in preventing another Sept. 11. Well, first to punish those who caused Sept. 11, and then to prevent it," Ramos said.

"Yeah, I wanted to get involved," Ruiz chimed. "I am happy to feel needed for a good cause. That is what most of us signed up for."

MARFORRES

Focus on the Force

Belle Chasse Hueys, Cobras support counterdrug ops

Maj. C. C. Dysart

Marine Forces Reserve

EL PASO, Texas – Marine Reserve helicopters from Belle Chasse, La., provided an eye in the sky for U.S. Border Patrol agents conducting counterdrug support operations here in March.

Approximately 60 active duty and reserve Marines, most from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773, Detachment A, were supporting Joint Task Force Six (JTF-6), which coordinates Department of Defense support to domestic law enforcement agencies' counterdrug efforts. Flying UH-1N 'Hueys' and AH-1W 'Cobras', the Marines flew day and night aerial reconnaissance missions to spot individuals conducting suspected illegal activity along the border.

"I think it's great training, especially when you understand that it's a template that will overlap real world missions," said Lt. Col. Brad Lindberg, commanding officer of Marine Aircraft Group 42, Detachment C, also at Belle Chasse, who acted as the detachment officer-in-charge.

The Marines were also able to exercise real world deployability. JTF-6 arranged for strategic lift to transport the detachment, which meant the Marines had to load and unload the helicopters on a C-5.

"C-5 training is invaluable," said Lindberg. "We really have it down. All five aircraft were loaded in

an hour and offloaded in less than that."

In fact, JTF-6 mission planners were surprised that the Marines were ready to fly missions so quickly after their arrival here.

The desert and mountains around El Paso provided a challenging environment for the pilots and aircraft maintainers who normally train in the Louisiana swamps. The high operating tempo and tough hours, working 0900 to 0200 on mission days, were also challenging, but the Marines were up to it.

"I've got a great crew," said Gunnery Sgt. Raymond Trott, the airframes maintenance chief and detachment leader for all of the enlisted Marines. "Everyone here has been doing a great job. We haven't dropped a mission."

A detachment of six Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 472 out of Willow Grove, Pa., provided communications support. They set up and monitored communications at the air station and the mobile Tactical Operations Center (TOC) at the Border Patrol stations.

The missions

The first two Cobras launched in the late afternoon and headed east to the Ft. Hancock sector, approximately 45 miles from El Paso. The Border Patrol station in this small farming community is responsible for 64 miles of river area.

Border Patrol Supervisor Herbert "Lee" Williams appreciates the help from the military. "We try to get as much as we can," said Williams, which usually means



Maj. C. C. Dysart

A Cobra from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773, Detachment A, from Belle Chasse, La., takes off to provide aerial reconnaissance in support of U.S. Border Patrol counterdrug operations near El Paso, Texas.



Armando Carrasco, JTF-6

Marines from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773 load one of their Cobras in a C-5 Galaxy for the return trip to Belle Chasse, La.

MARFORRES

Focus on the Force

about three JTF-6 operations a year.

In FY01, Ft. Hancock captured a record 25,000 pounds of marijuana. They had already reached that mark by March of this year.

"All the extra security at POE's (points of entry) is forcing narcotics smugglers into remote areas," said Williams.

The aircraft are directed to specific points based on intelligence information provided by the Border Patrol. As the aircraft detect suspected illegal activity, they alert the TOC to pass the information to the Border Patrol for appropriate response.

A typical mission lasts 2 to 2-1/2 hours and activity varies. In the Ft. Hancock sector the Marines may have 3-4 sightings per mission.

The second mission launches after dark.

This time the Marines head to the Fabens sector, closer to El Paso and much

more populated on both sides of the border. Here it is much harder to distinguish the suspected illegal activity from residents in their own backyards. Using night vision devices and forward looking infrared optics, the Marines, who are more used to looking for tanks and trucks, have to maximize their systems to find something as small as a man in a bush. A normal Fabens

mission results in about 10 sightings.

The Marines don't know how much of an impact their missions had here but according to the Border Patrol, just their presence helps to reduce the flow of drugs.

The El Paso experience

Maj. Ray Mederos, operations officer for HMLA-773, Det A, scheduled four deployments for his unit this year. Two of them are JTF-6 missions.

"The Marines could simulate the training elsewhere but

it wouldn't be the same experience," said Mederos. "Here you're actually trying to accomplish something, and you get the feedback."

"A lot of our Marines came to a reserve unit as their first duty station and we need to give them operational experience," said Mederos, who looked to JTF-6 to provide more training opportunities. "If it wasn't for the funding they (JTF-6) provide, we wouldn't be able to do it."

For Sgt. Gabriel Cruz, the HMLA-773, Det. A operations chief, the deployment was a chance to go to Texas and eat some good food. The Harlingen, Texas, native kept track of all of the squadron's flight hours and publications and radio contact between the air station and aircraft during the missions. Cruz said the JTF-6 staff took good care of the Marines. "They hooked us up with the best rooms and they are always coming out to see if we're okay or need anything," said Cruz.



Maj. C. C. Dysart

Sgt. Eric Geiger and Lance Cpl. Sang Kim, both from Marine Wing Support Squadron 472, Willow Grove, Pa., man the radio in the mobile Tactical Operations Center set up in the Fabens U.S. Border Patrol station. The Marines wear civilian clothes while operating off base to draw less attention to themselves and the mission.

Sgt. Eric Geiger and Lance Cpl. Sang Kim, part of the MWSS-472 communications detachment, are both civilian police officers and can appreciate what the Border Patrol is doing down here. For Kim, who lives in New York City, West Texas was also a new experience. "It's very laid back," he said, "and you have to have a car to get anywhere."

Twenty-year-old Lance Cpl. Zachary Pettigrew of New Orleans was on his first deployment after a year

in school learning to become an avionics technician. "I love it," said Pettigrew, referring to his experience in El Paso, which included his first flight in a Huey. "I'm doing everything they told me I would get to do when I joined the Marine Corps."

Pettigrew, who will start classes at the University of New Orleans this summer, volunteered for the deployment. When asked about the next one—"I'm on it," he said.

CM

D.C. Marines 'battle' Watts Branch Park debris

Cpl. Nelson Akeredolu

4th Civil Affairs Group

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Service to country, at home and abroad, is the hallmark of military service, and 60 Marines from the Marine Corps Reserve's 4th Civil Affairs Group, based here, demonstrated their commitment as "citizen soldiers" by volunteering to help clean up Watts Branch Park on Volunteer Day, March 2.

Volunteer Day, sponsored by Washington Parks and People and the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation Volunteers in Action, brought the Marines together with members of the Americorps' National Community Civilian Corps, City Year Washington, D.C., and a handful of volunteers and local residents, to help improve the lives of residents in the Watts Branch area.

The Marines, dressed in combat utilities and armed with an assortment of rakes, shovels, saws, protective gloves and river boots, roved Watt Branch Park as a fighting force battling an enemy that has plagued this area for years — urban decay.

The 3.7-mile stretch of Watts Branch Park is the longest city park and creek in Washington, D.C. The area is also of considerable historical significance because it is centered in what is considered to be the longest continuously African American community in the District. Unfortunately, years of illegal dumping, sewage, crime, and general neglect have made Watts Branch, known as "Needle Park," an unsafe environment for local residents.

"Things here are pretty bad. We really want to clean up this area," said Eugene Mendoza, Service Learning Coordinator, NCCC. "The kids should be able to feel safe enough to walk through the grass and not worry about stepping on a syringe. People that go shopping down here should not have



Sgt. K.A. Brown

Gail Benjamin, volunteer coordinator for D.C. Parks and Recreation, thanks Col. Steven E. McKinley, commanding officer, 4th CAG, and his Marines for their work on Volunteer Day.

to worry about getting mugged or raped."

Because of the dire situation, Watts Branch was slated a priority rehabilitation project by D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams. A few volunteer organizations pledged to take up the effort to reclaim Watts Branch.

Throughout the day, the Marines labored cheerfully cutting down decaying tree limbs and undergrowth, shoveling glass and debris from the creek bed and hauling large bags of garbage from point to point. They attacked their work with a contagious enthusiasm that could be felt by fellow volunteers and onlookers alike.

"The morale of the Marines also boosted ours," said Mendoza. "We are out here everyday. It can get pretty repetitive. So, it is nice to have another organization come out and help. Especially one that is this motivated."

For the Marines, helping to clean Watts Branch was also a way to actively and aggressively answer the

President's call for volunteer participation.

Volunteerism and community support are not new concepts to the Reserves. Marine Reserve units have a long tradition of participating in community programs and efforts to give something back to the communities in which they are based including the annual Toys for Tots Program and Young Marines.

"The commitment to citizen soldiering and Reserve volunteerism has been going on long before 9/11," said Col. Steven E. McKinley, commanding officer of 4th CAG. "What we are doing here is part of a long-standing tradition of support between the Reserves and our communities."

The reserves also hope that community efforts such as this one will help to shed light on another aspect of their service.

"I am sure some people just picture Marines in their minds as what they see on TV, on the news or in history

books when they read about certain events such as Iwo Jima, Vietnam and Desert Storm,” said Maj. Peter J. Finan, a civil affairs officer with the CAG. “People aren’t going to read in history books about Marines being out in the community helping in what some people might consider an insignificant event.”

Volunteer efforts such as Watts Branch are significant because they teach young people, who are the leaders and Marines of tomorrow, the value of community service, according to Finan.

“Today, a lot of young people from the community have come out and are pitching in because we are here,” said Finan. “I think the perception will be good in the community and these kids will take away an important lesson.”

The Marines want people to know that this is a “reserve supported community.”

“I think [the local residents] are probably pretty surprised and probably pretty glad we are here,” said Cpl. Christopher M. Ivory, a 4th CAG intelligence analyst. “By

helping to clean this park we have a chance to help give the children here a place to play without the risk of being hurt by broken glass and other types of debris.”

For Ivory and other Marines the equation for domestic service is a simple one.

“We live in

our society, we live in the communities. So, if you live in a community, it is always important to give back. If you don’t give back to them, they won’t give to you,” said Ivory.

“I think it will be a really positive experience for the community to see that you guys are not just there to fight in Bosnia, Afghanistan or wherever, but that you do things within the United States that actually help and affect their community,” said Cori Walden of Laurel, Md., a fellow volunteer and Army veteran.

Unit leaders also hope the day’s activities will be a learning experience for the younger Marines.

“We are teaching our younger Marines what it is like to be a citizen soldier,” McKinley said. “We have new Pfc’s and lance corporals who will see the tie between service to the community and the duty, honor and commitment it takes to be a Marine from day one.”

“We hope to spread it out and get other reserve units to come in and do other projects. Not, just cleaning parks, but we have other programs such as tutoring, coaching teams, mentor programs and so on. I hope these Marines come back again, again and again,” said Benjamin.

In the end, the results of the Volunteer Day efforts at Watts Branch Park won’t be gauged by the sentiment of the volunteers or the determination of a city agency. Rather, the lasting effects will be displayed by the attitude of the local residents. An early indication came from 8-year-old Andrea Carter, a resident of the neighborhood that borders the park. “I think it is good that they are here to clean up. This place will look better when they are done.”



Sgt. K.A. Brown

Capt. J. E. Moore and Capt. R. Shevak, both members of 4th CAG, remove trash from Watts Branch Creek during Volunteer Day.



Sgt. K.A. Brown

Eight-year-old Martin Bell cuts a vine under the watchful eye of Sgt. Nasser K. Manasterli of 4th CAG. Bell helped clean up on Volunteer Day, March 1.





New Commander for MCRSC

Sgt. Laura Pingree

Marine Corps Reserve Support Command

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Six months after being recalled from retirement in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Maj. Gen. Larry S. Taylor relinquished command of the Marine Corps Reserve Support Command in a change of command ceremony here May 22.

Following United States Senate confirmation, Brig. Gen. (select) Douglas M. Stone will be promoted to Brigadier General and take command of MCRSC. Meanwhile, Stone is serving as MCRSC deputy commander.

Taylor, in his remarks to the command, wished Stone well, and took the opportunity to also thank the Marines and civilians of MCRSC. “To have been given this privilege, after having been retired for several years, of once again serving Corps and Country, especially at this time in our history, has given me immense personal gratification,” said Taylor, thankful for another opportunity to lead Marines.

Taylor expressed his gratitude to the command for the lessons they taught him. “To have been given the privilege of simply hanging around these young Marines with a hundred different names and coming from dozens of different places and backgrounds, but each wedded to our core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment, has just been a joy,” said Taylor. “And to have been given this privilege in Kansas City has been much more than personally gratifying and fun. It has been educational. I will never have as many degrees as Brig. Gen. (select) Stone, but I know this much: I now know what is meant when people say Kansas City is the “Heart of



Sgt. Laura Pingree

Maj. Gen. Larry S. Taylor (left) stands tall with Brig. Gen. (select) Douglas M. Stone during their change of command ceremony May 22.

America.”

Stone, currently the CEO of Qwest CyberSolutions, is optimistic about his future at MCRSC, noting that with the Taylor’s departure, he has large shoes to fill.

Stone holds four masters degrees in Human Resources Management from Pepperdine University, Public Administration from the University of Southern California, Business Management from Stanford University and National Security from the U.S. Naval War College. He also holds a doctorate in political science from the University of Southern California.

Stone also serves as Board Director for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve National Toys for Tots Foundation and the Marine Memorial Association, and is the Marine Corps representative to the U.S. Army Science Board.



Marines and Sailors prepare for UNITAS 43-02

Sgt. Sam Kille

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — For the first time in its 43-year history, the Marine detachment for the amphibious phase of the annual UNITAS deployment to South America will be comprised of reserve Marines and corpsmen.

The shipboard deployment, drawing its name from the Latin term for unity, began in 1959 as a means for U.S. Naval forces to cross train with the navies of Latin American countries and maintain regional stability, while promoting friendship and greater understanding between nations of the Western Hemisphere.

Traditionally, Marine Forces UNITAS – a Marine rifle company, reinforced with a platoon of amphibious assault vehicles – comes from II Marine Expeditionary Force, based here. To ease the operational tempo of II MEF units, the task was given to Marine Forces Reserve this year. MarForRes began soliciting for volunteers in 2001.

Reserve Lt. Col. Anthony Q. Hattey, from San Jose, Calif., was selected to command Marine Forces UNITAS 43-02, which will embark aboard the USS Portland (LSD-37) this summer. The Marines began pre-deployment training and inspections, here, June 15.

The amphibious phase of UNITAS

will begin in late August in Colombia. While deployed, the reserve Marines will conduct traditional amphibious landing training exercises with their Latin American counterparts. Taking part this year are naval and Marine forces from Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil. The Marines will return to North Carolina in December.

The future plan is for II MEF and MarForRes to alternate the UNITAS deployment each year. Marine Forces UNITAS will maintain a website throughout its deployment, which can be accessed through a link on the MarForRes site: www.mfr.usmc.mil.

Engineers bridge the Colorado River during Desert Scimitar

Cpl. Daniel M. Bacon

New York Public Affairs

PALO VERDE, Calif. – Marines from 6th Engineer Support Battalion, Battle Creek, Mich., assisted their counterparts from 7th ESB in deploying a mobile bridge across the Colorado River here April 29 as part of Desert Scimitar.

Crossing the Colorado was the highlight of the 1st Marine Division exercise. The bridge gave more than 2,000 Marines and sailors and 575 vehicles safe passage during their 200 trek from the Marine Corps Air Ground Task Force Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. to the Army's Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona.

"Desert Scimitar is the premier exercise focusing on command, control and communication over large desert distances," said Capt. Wes Hayes, spokesman for 1st Marine Division.

The river crossing marked only the second time in recent memory that Marines had crossed an actual river with a ribbon bridge. The first was last year during Desert Scimitar 2001. This time the engineers took only two and a half hours to erect the bridge and the Division was able to move on four



Lance Cpl. Jennifer Arndt

Marines guide their bridge erection boat north against the Colorado River's six mile-per-hour current. The boat was headed toward the ribbon bridge the Marines erected where it helped stabilize the two-piece bridge against the relatively swift current.

hours ahead of schedule.

"They all did an amazing job. They far exceeded expectations," said 2nd Lt. Jacqueline Atkinson, bridge platoon commander, 7th ESB.

The Marines constructed the two sections of the bridge, which each weighed more than 12,000 pounds, and put them in the river, one on each bank. The Marines then swung the two pieces together with the use of their bridge erection boats.

"We wouldn't have been able to complete this mission without boats and bays from 6th ESB," said Atkinson, referring to reserves who helped.

"We're a lot more used to lakes instead of high-current waterways," said Cpl. Rex Webster, a combat engineer with 6th ESB, who lives in Carson City, Mich.

The current was in fact one of the biggest challenges for all the Marine combat engineers, but the confidence level was high, especially after the rapidly successful construction of the bridge.

"I think that we proved today that we're ready for any kind of river operation," Atkinson said. "We're ready to go into Iraq and cross the Euphrates River. Bring it on."

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R.I. PWST supports Special Olympics



Sgt. Dennis Arsenault, a member of the Peacetime Wartime Support Team, Providence, R.I., presents medals to competitors at the Northern Rhode Island 22nd Annual Special Olympics.

Approximately 350 participants, ages 5 to 65, from area schools and Special Olympic Centers from around Rhode Island, competed in 20 events.

"Some events I support are not the most fun, but this event is not that way. At the end of the day you realize how rewarding the experience has been," said Arsenault.

Arctic Care 2002

4th Force Service Support Group provides medical and dental care to native Alaskans

Sgt. Sam Kille

Marine Forces Reserve

COLD BAY, Alaska - Freezing rain and snow; temperatures dropping below zero; wind gusts exceeding 50 mph at times - yet the mission had to be completed. Armed with a can-do attitude, nearly 160 reserve and active duty Marines, Sailors, soldiers, and airmen recently participated in Operation Arctic Care 2002.

Fourth Force Service Support Group, Marine Forces Reserve, led the annual joint-forces operation, conducted here March 10-21, which provided much needed medical, dental, optometry, and veterinary services to the underserved Native populations of the Alaskan Peninsula, as well as the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands - all of which are only accessible by sea or air.

"The mission was a cooperative venture between the military and civilian health corporations," said Navy Capt. Karen Trueblood, the commanding officer of 4th Medical Battalion, 4th FSSG, and officer-in-charge of the exercise. "This was a win-win situation; the underserved communities received free services, while the military deployed a number of personnel into an area of 230,000 square miles. It was an excellent training opportunity."

During the operation, 1,613 patients were treated in 11 separate villages. Cases varied from simple medical screenings and eye exams, to vaccinations and root canals.

"Before coming here we didn't know what to expect; we assumed we would be doing a lot of extractions," said Navy Cmdr. Todd Allen, a dentist from 4th Dental Bn., 4th FSSG, assigned to the village of Sand Point.

"Yet we ended up doing a wide-variety of general dentistry," added Allen, a resident of Paxtuxent River, Md., "which saved a lot of teeth."

At times, the free medical care potentially saved lives.

"We had one guy come in and found problems with his vital signs," said HM2 Russell Hamrick, a Navy corpsman from 4th Med. Bn., who also worked in Sand Point. "We ended up doing an EKG, and an x-ray, and found out that his aorta was enlarged; he might have never known if we hadn't been here to see him."

The patient, according to Hamrick, will be sent to a specialist in Anchorage at a later date. Like many of his fellow service members, Hamrick, who hails from Palm Springs, Calif., felt a great sense of pride while conducting his duties.

"We really did a lot of good for these people," Hamrick said. "You could really see the appreciation in their eyes."

In addition to performing a valuable service - \$900,000 of free dental care for instance - those who took part in the exercise were afforded the opportunity to interact with the locals and try new things.

"Eating caribou (a first for many of the service members), participating in a chili cook-off, interacting with the kids in the community," said Staff Sgt. James Franklin, the logistics chief for 4th Med Bn., "It was a great experience!"

It was also an opportunity to educate the public about the military.

"We were having a lot of fun playing basketball with a group of kids in St. George," said Lance Cpl. Jennifer Richards, a reserve field radio operator from San Diego, "and they were asking us a lot of questions about the military and the lower 48 states. One boy even commented that he didn't know that there were 'any girls' in the Marine Corps. It was nice to let him know."

"It felt really good to give two weeks out of my life to make a difference in



Sgt. Sam Kille

Navy Capt. Tom Brant, 4th Dental Bn., 4th FSSG, was one of 160 service members who provided various services to people living in remote areas of Alaska.

people's lives," added Lance Cpl. Tyler Shippy, who is also a field radio operator from San Diego.

Above all, the importance of any exercise - including a humanitarian mission within the United States - is the way in which it prepares service members, especially reserves, for "real world" contingencies.

"This was truly a joint-forces operation, it just happened that 4th FSSG was the lead," said Brig. Gen. Cornell A. Wilson, Jr., commanding general of 4th FSSG. "This will definitely play into operations in the future, whether they are joint or coalition. In the reserves, we don't get this kind of opportunity very often, so, it was a good way to expand the scope of knowledge - not just for 4th FSSG - but the other services as well. At the same time, it makes me feel good as an American to provide these services for our fellow countrymen. I leave here with a greater appreciation for our country."

"Plus," Brig. Gen. Wilson added, "the salmon is simply delicious!"

Making it happen: Logisticians face Arctic challenges head on

Sgt. Sam Kille

Marine Forces Reserve, Public Affairs

COLD BAY, Alaska - Making sure that equipment is where it needs to be takes planning and hard work - operating in an area of 230,000 square miles can make it a logistical nightmare. Yet with the mission to support the medical and dental teams of Operation Arctic Care 2002 in mind, the challenges were faced head on and conquered by the Marines and Sailors of 4th Medical Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group.

Operation Arctic Care, an annual humanitarian mission involving members of all military branches, provided medical and dental care to Native Alaskans living in remote areas of the Alaskan Peninsula, Pribilof and Aleutian Islands, March 10-21.

"We had nearly 24,000 pounds of cargo to move in and out of the villages," said Staff Sgt. James Franklin, logistics chief for 4th Med. Bn. "There was everything from personnel, rations, general cargo, hazardous cargo, to bonded cargo. Everything being shipped had to meet certain time frames for shipment."

Ensuring the equipment reached its intended destinations relied heavily on air crews from Company A, 4/123



Sgt. Sam Kille

Staff Sgt. James Franklin, logistics chief, 4th Med. Bn., 4th FSSG, moves medical equipment during Operation Arctic Care.

Army Aviation Regiment and its five UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters; two C-23 Sherpa transport planes from 1/207 Alaska National Guard Aviation Bn.; and two C-130 transport planes from Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak.

The fixed wing aircraft were used to reach long distance locales such as Adak, located 1,500 miles from Anchorage, while the Blackhawks were used to transport personnel from Anchorage to Cold Bay, site of the Arctic Care command element. From Cold Bay, the Blackhawks flew gear and personnel to nearby locations. Often, the crews' missions were hampered by the elements.

"The greatest challenge was meeting aviation missions with the ever-changing weather conditions," said Navy Capt. Karen Trueblood, the commanding officer of 4th Med. Bn., and a resident of Pittsburgh, Pa. "Flexibility was the word of the day."

Flexibility and cooperation, according to Franklin, was the key to what he called an "educational experience."

"The lingo is different, the perspective is different," Franklin said.

"Dealing with a different entity like the Army or the Air Force can be a challenge (being used to doing things the Marine Corps way) but we pulled together and made it happen."

Realizing the differences, Franklin said, will be beneficial to the Marines and Sailors who assisted him in the arduous task of getting everything to the right locations.



Sgt. Sam Kille

Medical teams depart Cold Bay, Alaska, for Kings Cove, to provide medical care during Operation Arctic Care.

"This operation was a good way to test their skills while working in a joint environment," he said.

According to Gunnery Sgt. Wilberto Cordero, supply chief, 4th Med. Bn., the test worked.

"The key to the logistical success here was the establishment of a solid team," said Cordero, who is currently stationed in San Diego. "We assigned one Marine and one corpsman to support each team of the exercise. Through appropriate training prior to this, they were successful in their support of their teams and the overall mission."

HM1 Heidi Amato, a corpsman from 4th Med. Bn., who worked at the operation command center, echoed many of Cordero and Franklin's thoughts.

"The logistical, medical and operational techniques gained here," the San Diego resident said, "will help us in the event that we are, one day, mobilized to support the 4th FSSG team in either combat or future humanitarian missions."

And in this day and age of uncertainty in the world, that is what matters most.

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TRINIDAD —

More than 60 Marines from Marine Forces Reserve recently participated in Operation Weedeater, a counterdrug eradication support operation on this Caribbean island.

The Marines, from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., and 4th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO), West Palm Beach, Fla., provided training and support for the Defense Force and Police Department of Trinidad and Tobago, and U.S. Drug Enforcement Agents who conducted the missions.

"It's definitely an honor for us to be able to participate in such an operation," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Rickman D. Taylor, officer-in-charge of the 4th ANGLICO detachment. "This is deemed a counterdrug operation, but it is much more than that. It's a humanitarian mission; a mission to defend the American youth; a continuance of the war on drugs; and most importantly, it's a mission that promotes international relations."

Although the Marines were limited by U.S. law to provide support only in the form of airlift, training and logistics for counterdrug operations, those elements were critical to the success of the mission. The host nation, which has limited airlift and logistics capability, would not have been able to perform

this mission without help from the Marines.

With the terrain in many of the targeted areas being triple-canopy forest, normal means of transportation were unrealistic for the operations. Because of this, the helicopter squadron with its CH-46s quickly became a very important aspect of the operation.

"This environment, at times, was very challenging for us to fly in," said Maj. Jacques Naviaux, mission commander. "With a mountainous forest environment and trees reaching in excess of 200 feet, there were many times we found ourselves having to fly below the tree line to insert those conducting the missions."

The terrain was very new for the California-based squadron, but instead of causing a problem for the Marines, they faced it as a way to improve themselves.

"This training was ideal for these Marines," Naviaux said. "There is no doubt that our Marines are better prepared to handle mountain and jungle environments, and are, by far, more well-rounded."

"Working in these small zones is the ultimate test of helicopter crew coordination. The pilots cannot do this alone. They must be constantly guided by the crew chief and observer in the rear of the aircraft,

in order to avoid obstacles and to maintain a stable hover while conducting fast-rope inserts and SPIE (special insert and extraction) extracts."

Because of the conditions and the continual use of the aircraft, the flight crews and Marines responsible for the maintenance of the helicopters, in many ways, held the fate of the mission in their hands. Without their efforts and consistent mission accomplishment, the "birds" would have been unable to fly, and the missions would not have gone.

While the squadron provided mobility, the Marines of 4th ANGLICO provided training to the operators and communications support.

The first task was training local law enforcement to better overcome the terrain on which they'd be conducting their mission. Although the Marines were the newcomers to the operation, the difficulties encountered by the host nation law enforcement agencies were familiar. Because of the thick forest and steep hills, landing aircraft in a designated location was out of the question, which meant the Ma-

(Top) CWO 2 Rickman D. Taylor fastropes during a demonstration by the Marines before the commencement of training exercises.

(Left) Marines instruct the Trinidad and Tobago defense force in SPIE techniques.

Lance Cpl. Damian McGee



UH-1H help light up Operation Weedeater

rines had to teach those involved how to conduct fast-rope inserts and SPIE extracts using ropes suspended from the helicopters.

From the beginning, this training was going to be a difficult task, because the number of Marines qualified to train versus the number who required the training was significantly uneven. At one point, there were more than 150 trainees. Even after flying in two additional Marines, there were still only four Helicopter Rope Suspension Training (HRST) Masters.

"We had an extremely significant responsibility throughout these operations," said Sgt. Adam L. Mackillop, HRST master, 4th ANGLICO. "Because of the numbers, none of us were allowed to rest mentally or physically. Not having motivation, or taking a break, was not an option. Everyday we were expected to perform, and we did."

In addition to the large number of trainees, the training location added another challenge for the Marines.

"When we (Marines) are trained for these types of things, we're used to having a tower of some sort to work with and fairly consistent means of practicing our skill," Mackillop said. "However, because this country is not equipped with the right locations and is not used for this type of training, we had to simply work with what we were given."

In fact, the training facilities were so limited that at one point the Marines conducted ground training in an arena type setting with the rope rigged to the ceiling. Trainees used scaffolding to reach the designated heights from which they would fast-rope.

"The conditions weren't ideal,"

Mackillop said, "but we did what we could. Everyone involved in this operation received thorough training, and was more than confident with their abilities by the time they boarded the helicopters."

The final and most crucial aspect of the Marines' support came in the form of communications. Here again, the terrain played an integral part in the ability of the Marines to obtain and maintain communications.

"Everything is a factor when trying to maintain good communication in the field," said Gunnery Sgt. Larry E. Moody, communications chief, 4th ANGLICO. "Many of the older Marines have experienced training like this, but it was great experience for the younger Marines. This hopefully gave them an idea of how difficult it can be to get communications in the field, and that nothing is guaranteed."

Throughout the operation, the Marines were responsible for maintaining communications between the headquarters, flight crews, and various teams conducting field operations. Using three and four various radios at a time, the Marines were pushed to another level during this evolution.

"There's no doubt in my mind that these Marines used every type of field expedient wire there is to get communication," Taylor said. "In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if at times they invented some of their own."

While some of their means may not have been according to any textbook, they still managed to do their job.

"These Marines need to know that no




Lance Cpl. Damian McGee

The Marines instruct fastroping for the Trinidad and Tobago defense force before beginning actual operations.

matter where you are you have to get communication," Moody said. "Without, we are of no use to anyone."

At the conclusion of the operation, nearly \$400 million worth in drugs had been eradicated, nearly twice as much as in previous years. But even without the numbers, there was no doubt the Marines had served a greater purpose while participating in this operation.

"Every Marine should leave here with more experience when it comes to dealing with jungle environments," Naviaux said. "But more than that, they will have a sense of accomplishment knowing they made an impact in the war on drugs. Although this took place in a specific location, their efforts will have far reaching affects." 

9TH ANNUAL ULTIMATE CHALLENGE MUD RUN

Maj. Kevin McNerney

PWST, D Co., 8th Tank Bn.

COLUMBIA, S.C.— Marines from D Company, 8th Tanks hosted the 9th Annual Ultimate Challenge Mud run, here, May 11. This year's event was the biggest ever and a tremendous success with over 200 four-person teams competing.

The course was a grueling 4.2 miles long over "terrain" that includes 32 obstacles. Any obstacle you can imagine was built into the course: tank ditches, HUGE mud pits, berms, rope bridges, cargo nets, rope swings, cliffs and more. The final obstacle was a stretcher carry in which three members of the team carried the fourth "injured" comrade the last 100 meters to the finish line. For two weeks prior to the race, the Inspector-

Instructor staff worked around the clock putting the finishing touches on the course, which included pumping 20,000 gallons of water each day onto the course to insure a true Marine Corps experience. The fastest teams finished in approximately 38-40 minutes and the slowest in about 90 minutes.

The race was open to anyone who felt up to the challenge. Competitive categories included: military, police/fireman, corporate, ROTC, JROTC, and open. For those who were less than enthusiastic about getting dirty and "building their body the Marine Corps way," there were also certified 5K and 10K road races. Participants came from as far north as Detroit and as far south as Miami and all truly loved the experience.

The local Marine Corps Coordinating Council, with members from D Company, the local recruiting station, the Marine Corps League, and the Montford Point Marines, began planning the event in early January. Leading the way were I-I 1st Sgt. Chris Blumenberg, who had overall coordination of the course design and retired Maj. John Hopkins, who solicited sponsors, among other things. The Marines of D Company provided the manpower to manage the race and ensure a smooth event for the community.

Next year, the 10th Annual promises to be an even bigger and better event! Semper Fit!



What is the MARFORRES Key Volunteer Network (KVN)?



The KVN is an integral part of the unit Commanding Officer's (CO) official Family Readiness program. The KVN helps strengthen unit mission readiness.

The KVN serves...

- ✓ as a communication link between the unit and its families.
- ✓ in developing and maintaining a sense of community within the unit.
- ✓ as a reliable source of information and referral.

A MARFORRES Key Volunteer is the spouse or parent of a Marine—Reserve or Active.



Join today and make a difference!!

Contact your Marine's unit CO, SgtMaj, 1stSgt, or Family Readiness Officer for details about service as a Key Volunteer.

MWSS-472 breaks ground for new training center

Sgt. Aurthur DesLauriers

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE, Mass.— An overcast sky with the threat of rain did not dampen the spirits of the Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 472 Detachment B as they gathered here March 15 for the groundbreaking ceremony for their new training center.

“It has taken six years of planning, including countless phone calls and emails, but the realization of it is here,” said Lt. Col. Michael Maciel, Westover site commander.

U.S. Congressmen Richard E. Neal and John W. Olver, along with Brig. Gen. Jack W. Bergman, commanding general of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, used golden shovels to break through the ground signifying the beginning of the construction phase of the new 53,000 square foot Marine Corps Reserve Training Center and a vehicle maintenance facility.

The RTC and VMF will consolidate the functions of approximately 300 Marines from Marine Air Support Squadron-6, MWSS 472 Det B, Region 1 Prior Service Recruiting, and the Marine site support staff.

When completed, the modern facility will house state of the art office and classroom spaces, locker rooms, medical examination spaces, a food service facility, shop spaces, an armory, classified material and equipment control and storage spaces, a supply warehouse, and a simulated individual weapons marksmanship training range. Total

project cost is approximately \$9.3 million dollars.

“The new training center will provide for better classroom training environments which will enhance each Marine’s ability to perform,” said Staff Sgt. Donald L. Ogden, training chief for MWSS 472 Det B.

“With the site moving to a one building operation, our unit should run smoother and at a quicker pace. The present buildings, which are the old base housing units, make communication and dissemination of hard copy items time consuming, as either I or the Marines in need of administrative services have to go from building to building,” said Cpl. Roger Morton, operations clerk for the Region 1 Prior Service Recruitment Office.

Bergman also took time to recognize Sgt. Michael Stoneburg and Sgt. Kevin Rowe of MWSS-472 Det B. for their dedication to the Corps by

awarding both the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. “This is a small token for great achievement and dedication to our Corps, your hard work helps in raising our level of readiness,” said Bergman.

“I am proud of the manner that the men and women of the armed forces have performed since the events of September 11th,” said Congressman Neal. “Recently it was stated that the American military was in a state of disrepair; anyone who looks at the morning papers or watches CNN can see that our military personnel have performed in an extraordinary manner and it is important to acknowledge the role they are playing in the defense of liberty.”

Congressman Olver added, “It has been my top priority to improve the quality of the working life and off-duty life for the men and women who serve our country. Since September

11, your work has intensified in preparation for future deployments, and to prepare for that, reserve troops deserve to have access to facilities that will improve our military readiness.”

Bergman congratulated the Marines on the groundbreaking.

“What is done here today at Westover is a small part in the total effort that is going to make it all happen in the long term. As you know, we will be successful in anything we do,” said Bergman.

The tentative completion date for the new training site is January 2003.



Sgt. Aurthur DesLauriers

From Left to Right, Maj. Gen. James D. Bankers, commander of the 22nd Air Force, U.S. Congressman Richard E. Neal, Brig. Gen. Jack W. Bergman, commanding general of 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, U.S. Congressman John Olver and Col. Michael Mazick, commanding officer of the 439th Airlift Wing, wield golden shovels at the ceremonial groundbreaking.



New Horizons 2002 6TH ES

Master Sgt. Dan Wellman

139th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

LOS CORALES, Nicaragua –Marines from Charlie Company, 6th Engineer Support Battalion have gained some invaluable experience in their first few days in Nicaragua. While working on construction sites at Quinama and Los Corales, the Illinois based United State Marine Corps Reserve unit has developed and enhanced not only its construction skills, but also its individual Marine and leadership capabilities.

With these skills, the Leathernecks will continue to accomplish the mission and set new standards. Although the Peoria, Illinois based Marines trained on the Royal Building System before arriving in the mountains of Nicaragua, the hands-on experience they have gained by constructing the school at Los Corales with the Canadian developed construction system cannot be replicated back home on drill weekends.

Master Sgt. Donnie Lorrence said, "This training is great for us Marines. As it provides us with the opportunity to broaden and enhance our knowledge of our MOS." Cpl. Martin Hoover is a prime example of a young Marine that has improved his job skills in Nicaragua.

On Monday, JTF Staff trained Hoover to operate a twenty-two and one-half ton Grove Crane, and on Tuesday, the Springfield, Illinois resident was operating the heavy equipment in support of the construction of a two-story latrine at Quinama.

Lance Cpl. Ben Jones, a Heartland Community College student, said the mission in Nicaragua has improved the unit's construction skills. He also said the work has developed the Marines into a solid team.

Many of the Charlie Company Marines have also developed their interpersonal skills and leadership abilities.



Staff Sgt. Bryan Rotherham

Charlie Company, 6th Engineer Support Battalion Marines perform masonry work on the Los Corales latrine.

Lance Cpl. Jonathan Blessman, a Topeka, Illinois resident said that he has worked on his tact and his ability to communicate.

Several Marines also indicated that the Nicaraguan experience has helped them improve upon their leadership skills.

"I have learned about accountability of Marines and equipment and delegat-

ing authority to ensure mission accomplishment," said Sgt. Jason Barringer, a Decatur, Illinois resident.

Sgt. Derek Patton, a Washington, Illinois resident and civil engineering graduate of the University of Illinois added, "I have learned there is a balance between motivation and morale, or in better terms, whether I should get in their face or keep their spirits up."

The Illinois Marines also believe that their time in Nicaragua is well worth the effort and their sweat will benefit the people of this mountainous region.

Gunnery Sgt. Michael Stein said, "Everybody in JTF Chontales has the

same goals. We all want to get the job done and everybody wants to help this country out."

Sgt. Barringer, who served as a young Marine in Somalia, indicated that their physical product may have a long lasting intangible effect on the nation of Nicaragua. He said, "Education is the key to the development of any country and by building schools we are creating the condition that provides for the opportunity to be successful."

The Charlie Company Marines are also quick to recognize the efforts of the Nicaraguan partners on the construction sites. Many of the unit's leaders expressed that they were impressed with the Nicaraguan soldiers. Many of the younger Marines stated that it was pleasurable to

work with the local soldiers.

Lance Cpl. Beck, a mechanical engineering student at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville said, "It is nice to interact with Nicaraguan soldiers and to get a better understanding of each other."

SB RECEIVES VALUABLE EXPERIENCE IN NICARAGUA

Charlie Company has a history of service in New Horizons' missions providing humanitarian assistance to the nations of Belize, Guatemala and Jamaica in the last five years.

The unit also served overseas in Korea and Albania in the two years before the New Horizons' missions.

The unit also has a strong record of service to the community back home in Illinois. The Leathernecks built football fields, baseball diamonds, equipment sheds and a concession

stand in the small Illinois community of Lacom. They constructed strong backs or tent frames

for a Boy Scout camp in Peoria and constructed dugouts for the Peoria Chiefs minor league baseball team. They also cleared brush and built a dugout for Peoria Manuel High School.

Moreover, the unit supported the city of Peoria in its renovation of

public housing by using heavy equipment to level the buildings. The Charlie Company Marines also built pavilions for the city of Chillicothe on its riverfront on the Illinois River. They also cleared nature trails through some local forests for the community.

No matter the job, from constructing a school in Nicaragua to building a dugout in Peoria, Illinois, the Prairie State Marines are dedicated and committed to completing the mission. Their record of accomplishment and history speaks for itself.

As Cpl. Derek Patton said, "Our company has vast experience and our track-record is excellent. We always exceed mission expectations and we have a can-do positive attitude."

This notion was seconded by many of the Marines.

Sgt. Barringer added, "Charlie Company is the best reserve unit in the United States Marine Corps. They know we can accomplish the mission and get the job done."



Capt. Norris Jones, USNR

Cpl. Jacob Heafner of Pleasant Hill, Ill. (left), Staff Sgt. Christopher Lomelino of Davenport, Iowa, and Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Burdette of Peoria, Ill. chat with Lt. Gen. Dennis M. McCarthy, Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, April 3. The three are members of C Company, 6th Engineer Support Battalion out of Peoria, Ill., and served 17 days with Joint Task Force Chontales helping build schools in Nicaragua.

Portland Engineers build facilities in El Salvador

USULUTÁN, El Salvador – Members of 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, Portland, Ore., spent three months here constructing two medical clinics and a pharmacy as part of New Horizons El Salvador.

The joint engineer and combat service support training exercise, sponsored by the U.S. Southern Command, also helped to promote friendly relations between the U.S. and El Salvador.

"It was motivating and very awarding," said Cpl. Ruben E. Rivera, a native of El Salvador and unit diary clerk, Headquarters and Support Company, 6th ESB. "I

was helping out my people. For me, it was huge." Five groups with 17 Marines each rotated through the exercise, which began February and ended late April. The Marines also assisted in the construction of a school.

"The townspeople were happy for us to be there," said Sgt. Gregory S. Britt, motor transport chief, H & S Co., 6th ESB. "Leaving there knowing you gave them better than they had before was a good feeling."





Sgt. Sam Kille

Lance Cpl. Jonathan Beasley, landing support specialist, 4th LSB, CSSD-46, engages pop-up targets with his M-16 A2 service rifle.

ROLLING THUNDER

Sgt. Sam Kille

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

FORT BRAGG, N.C. - Marine artillerymen operate with one basic premise in mind - "shoot and scoot." Their ability to get rounds on target and then move their M-198 howitzers to avoid enemy detection relies heavily on excellent service support.

Nearly 450 reserve Marines and Sailors from the 4th Force Service Support Group recently provided that support to the active duty cannon cockers of Camp Lejeune's 10th Marine Regiment during Rolling Thunder 2002, a bi-annual firing exercise which ended here April 21.

The reserves, hailing from units across the nation, formed together as

Combat Service Support Detachment 46. While here, they provided the regiment with the food, fuel, water and ammunition necessary to perform its fire missions, as well as medical and dental care when the need arose.

"We had Marines and Sailors from every battalion in the 4th FSSG," said Lt. Col. Patrick J. Hermesman, officer in charge of CSSD-46, and a resident of Columbus, N.J. "We could do just about anything for 10th Marines, from delivering supplies to providing engineer and communications support."

The reserve's involvement in the exercise began March 17 when an advance party arrived here to begin the arduous task of receiving and invento-



Sgt. Sam Kille

Lance Cpl. Rich Donaleson, landing support specialist, 4th LSB, CSSD-46, peers through binoculars to see the impact of artillery rounds.

rying equipment and supplies from throughout the country, according to Maj. David Lucci, operations officer for 6th Motor Transport Battalion, Redbank, N.J. A second advance party arrived March 25 to set up a field ammunition supply point, and a third advance party arrived March 27 to establish CSSD-46's base camp.

The main body arrived April 6.

Since their arrival, the reserves had been very busy. The roar of engines could often be heard from sunrise to well past midnight, as convoys of vehicles made their rounds from the base camp to remote locations to re-supply 10th Marines. According to Cpl. John W. Beamer, a vehicle operator from Orlando, Fla., a

typical re-supply mission entailed the use of six trucks transporting 1,000 gallons of water, 800 gallons of fuel and 92 cases of meals-ready-to eat. When driving at night, the vehicles had to drive without headlights to stay tactical - safety was a major concern.

“Basically, it was our job to get 10th Marines what they needed, when they needed it, and to avoid casualties and accidents,” said Beamer, who had led several convoys. “If somebody gets hurt that can destroy the mission.”

In addition to providing support for their fellow Leathernecks, the Marines of CSSD-46 had the opportunity to learn about the artillery regiment’s mission. Some were even afforded the opportunity to pull the lanyard that fires the M-198.

“I’d never seen a howitzer fire before,” said Cpl. Mike



Sgt. Sam Kille

Artillery Marines were supported by reserve Marines and sailors from CSSD-46, 4th FSSG during Rolling Thunder '02.

Sheperd, a landing support specialist from Turlock, Calif. “It was interesting to learn about its capabilities, and to receive cross-training in another MOS (military occupational specialty).”

Most importantly, the exercise helped demonstrate the Commandant of the Marine Corps’ policy of total force integration.

“Being here provided the reserves the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with the active duty Marines, which we don’t get to do very often” said Sheperd. “It also changed views; it showed the active Marines that reserve Marines can do the job just as well.”

The Camp Lejeune artillerymen seemed to agree.

“Knowing that these Marines (CSSD-46) came from all over—as far away as Long Beach, California—and seeing them pull together the way they did was not only outstanding, it was motivating,” said Col. Al Pace, the commanding officer of 10th Marines. “They are just like any other Marines.

They came together as a team and hit the ground running. The total force concept has definitely been proven true here at Rolling Thunder.”



Sgt. Sam Kille

Right: Cpl. Jonathan Rudick and Cpl. Chad Carter, 4th Maint. Bn., CSSD-46, work on the recoil system of an M-198 howitzer during Rolling Thunder.



Sgt. Sam Kille

2nd Lt. Jeff Banasz, infantry liaison officer, India Battery, 3rd Bn., 10th Mar., explains the duties of a forward observer to reserve Marines from CSSD-46 during Rolling Thunder '02.



Sgt. Sam Kille

Marines from Gun 1, R Btry., 5th Bn., 10th Mar., fire their M-198 howitzer during Rolling Thunder '02 which was supported by CSSD-46, 4th FSSG.

JCIET '02

4th MAW leads Marine contingent in Joint Eval

GySgt. J. D. Edwards

Marine Forces Reserve, Public Affairs

Reserve helos and air control provide support

GULFPORT, Miss. — Losing lives on the battlefield is a tragedy that is very saddening. However, lives lost due to friendly fire incidents is even more heart-wrenching, and is a nightmare America should not have to face.

In an effort to save lives and prevent friendly fire incidents in the future, more than 4,000 United States and coalition military personnel joined forces along the Gulf Coast, April 15-26, to evaluate systems and procedures that identify friendly and enemy forces while on the battlefield.

The field evaluation, otherwise known as the Joint Combat Identification Evaluation Team (JCIET) 2002, is a U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM) sponsored event that allowed more than 50 “combat ready” military units the chance to test their combat identification systems and procedures.

The primary mission of JCIET is to employ the equipment and personnel of all four services, and approved Allied/Coalition forces, to evaluate, investigate, and assess joint integration and interoperability of systems, concepts, capabilities, tactics, techniques, and procedures, and doctrine that directly affect combat identification within the present and future joint battle space.



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

A UH-1N “Huey” from HMLA-773, Det. A, Belle Chasse, La., lands to pick up a special operations crew which was inserted into a mock battle during JCIET 02.

“JCIET is a very intense and complex evaluation that will better prepare the Marine Corps to save friendly lives while on the battlefield,” said Col. Gerald E. Webb, officer-in-charge, Marine Forces Detachment, JCIET-02. “This evaluation gives Marines a chance to get an overall operational and administrative interface with joint and allied forces, which will allow us to more readily identify friend and foe on the battlefield.”

JCIET was designed to evaluate four mission areas: air-to-air, surface-to-air, air-to-surface, and surface-to-surface. However, JCIET-02 has been designated as an evaluation of only air-to-surface and surface-to-air mission areas.

More than 800 Marines from both the active and reserve forces participated in JCIET-02. In addition to the personnel, the Marine Corps supplied a large portion of the technical equipment, aircraft, and tanks for the evaluation.

“Originally, only 250 Marines were supposed



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

A Marine Corps Harrier taxis down the runway at the Air National Guard Base in Gulfport, Miss., before beginning its mission during JCIET 02.

to participate in JCIET this year,” said Maj. Ben Palmer, operations officer, Marine Forces Detachment, JCIET-02. “But due to ‘real world’ missions the Army and Air Force had a lot of players drop out, and the Marine Corps numbers have grown to approximately 800.”

Under the lead of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, the Marine Forces’ mission mirrored the JCIET mission with emphasis put into the execution of tactical unit level operations in support of joint/combined service evaluations.

“During JCIET, the Marine Corps will evaluate all levels of responsibility but will focus on the small unit team evaluation,” said Webb, assistant wing commander, 4th MAW. “Our goal is to ensure everyone is properly trained, down to the lowest level of responsibility, so that we kill the right target.”

Throughout the two-week evaluation, the Marine Corps tested several systems, techniques, and procedures in both day and nighttime scenarios. For example, Marine Air Control Squadron 24, provided ground control intercepts, surveillance, air combat identification, and sector air defense command for the friendly forces of the Air Force. Additionally, they evaluated the Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) with the Navy.

“By participating in this joint exercise we get to find the interoperability between the different services,” said Sgt. Rudolph Williams, air command control electrical operator, MACS-24, Naval Activity Damneck, Va. “Junior Marines get to learn the different procedures of the other services, as well as how we perform in the field. This is the first time many of our Marines have got to set up equipment other than in garrison.”

Marines from Marine Wing Communications Squadron 48, located at Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill., were tasked with providing network and terrestrial communications in support of all forces. Also, Marines from 3rd Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, from

Long Beach, Calif., were charged with controlling close air support (CAS) for Navy Marine Attack Squadron 542. While controlling the CAS, 3rd ANGLICO utilized the new digital Advanced Close Air Support System.

“We are evaluating some of the most sophisticated data collection, data analysis and radar systems in the military,” said Palmer. “These evaluations will show us how well we take command and control of our airspace, and how well we identify and execute the enemy.”

Palmer also noted that technologies of today are amazingly much more advanced and accurate than those used during the Gulf War.

Throughout the evaluation, all participants were connected electronically through data links that captured their movements and actions. The data was transmitted to a centralized accumulation point where evaluators analyzed and determined whether or not friendly fire incidents occurred. Procedures, systems or tactics that lead to friendly fire incidents will be thoroughly studied by JCIET and recommendations will be distributed to prevent possible “real world” occurrences.

In addition to the JCIET evaluators, the Marine Corps Systems Command, located at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., provided evaluators, contractors, analysts, and experimental systems in support of Marine Corps objectives.

The information and findings gathered during JCIET-02 will be published in an in-depth formal report, approved by USJFCOM and then forwarded to the Department of Defense and national decision-makers. An initial detailed analy-



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

The AN/TPS-59(V3) radar antenna is an advanced system which gives a long range, three-dimensional readings of aircraft within a designated airspace.

sis will be provided to all participants within 45 days, and a final report that includes relevant findings, conclusions and recommendations will be provided within six months.

“The Marine Corps will take from this evaluation, not exercise, information that will make us more successful on the battlefield,” said Webb. “We will take the feedback regarding systems and tactics and put it to use, so we can avoid friendly fire casualties.”

Since JCIET became a joint activity under USJFCOM in October 2000, it has evolved into an annual event that is the nation’s primary means to analyze how the military identifies friendly and enemy targets on the battlefield. JCIET-03 is currently scheduled to take place in June 2003 during “Roving Sands”, at Fort Bliss, Texas, and White Sands Missile Range, N.M.



4th and 8th Tanks with L Co. 3/23 show their stuff



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

8th Tanks took on the role as Red Force during the JCIET '02 mock battles.

GySgt. J.D. Edwards

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs

GULFPORT, Miss. – Since the terrorist attacks on American soil and the increase in ‘real world’ missions, Marines around the world are taking advantage of every training opportunity to hone their war fighting skills.

During the recent field evaluation, Joint Combat Identification Evaluation Team (JCIET) 2002, more than 50 “combat ready” military units tested their combat identification

systems and procedures along the Gulf Coast.

The primary purpose of JCIET-02 was to evaluate air-to-surface and surface-to-air missions.

Although the ground combat forces were not being evaluated, more than 200 infantry and heavy armor Marines from Company L, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines; 8th Tank Battalion; and Company C, 1st Tank Battalion, utilized JCIET-02 as a training opportunity.

“When rounds are live, you’re so scared that you don’t even think you can walk,” said Master Sgt. Albert F. Blankenship, company first sergeant, Co. L, 3rd Bn., 23rd Marines. “What keeps you alive is the training you

receive!”

The ground units set the stage for a ‘real world’ scenario during the evaluation. For example, infantry Marines provided the friendly ground combat maneuver element, reinforced by tanks from Co. C, 1st Tank Bn. In addition, Marines from 8th Tank Bn., played the role of unfriendly forces utilizing former Soviet Union T-72 main battle tanks and BMP personnel carriers.

“It is important to take advantage of every opportunity to train with your unit,” said Sgt. Joseph Fernandez, squad leader, Co. L, 3rd Bn., 23rd Marines. “JCIET was a great exercise for us to employ troops and weapons in the field. I love this kind of training, because it has ‘real world’ applications.”

Most of the Marines in the evaluation have been to the field to train on several occasions, however, this large-scale joint evaluation was unique to many.

“It has been motivating to participate in this exercise,” said Lance Cpl. Todd M. Riley, rifleman, Co. L, 3rd Bn., 23rd Marines. “We demonstrated a great example of battlefield superiority.”



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

Marines from L Co. (above) and 4th Tanks (right) assumed the role of Blue Force during JCIET mock battles.



Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

6th Comm. Bn shows ‘Once a Marine, Always a Marine’

CWO4 John J. Sgro

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

BROOKLYN, N.Y.— Reserve Marines from Support Company, 6th Communications Battalion, here, have been taking time out from their normal routine to help “one of their own” — their former first sergeant.

1st Sgt. Luis E. Garcia was seriously injured a little over a year ago in a car accident leaving him paralyzed from the neck down.

Since the accident, Garcia has been in the Bronx Veterans Administration medical center. His wife Carrie, in an attempt to bring her husband home, purchased a single-family home that would accommodate his needs.

The 100-year-old house, which sits on the Brooklyn/Queens border two blocks from where legendary Marine Dan Daly rests, was full of challenges. That is where the Marines from 6th Comm. Bn. came in.

“When we first came out to the house, we were unsure of what needed to be completed,” said Cpl. John G. Heaney, a field radio operator, “but now everything has fallen in place — we expect to be finished by August.”

Heaney, a service technician for Verizon, has been instrumental in the overall supervision of the project—directing Marines in what tasks need to be accomplished each weekend, identifying material to be purchased and best matching the skills of the Marines to a task.

Since March 2002, the Marines have spent almost every weekend helping Garcia’s father (Rickie) and Carrie with the sheet rock, painting, roofing and general clean up – not to mention the monetary value the Marines’ services are saving the Garcia’s, Heaney said.

“Whenever any of us have free time we’ll go over and help out — I’m just hoping to get him settled down in his new house as soon as possible,” said Lance Cpl. Christopher W. Rynczak, who works in data communications.

Heaney, Rynczak, who is a college student, and Cpl. Steven D. Troy, an independent carpenter, are using their available time, knowledge and skills to get the job done. The Marines plan on adding a wheelchair lift and making the house all around accessible for Garcia in coming months.

“They (Marines) stopped the roof from leaking and made the



CWO4 John J. Sgro

Marines from 6th Comm. Bn., rip out the back portion of the Garcia home to make it more accessible.

“They stopped the roof from leaking and made the house all around more livable. If it weren’t for them, I don’t know how the house could ever be completed.”

Carrie Garcia

house all around more livable,” said Carrie Garcia. “If it weren’t for them, I don’t know how the house could ever be completed.”

In the process of renovating the house, the Marines also had the opportunity to cross train others outside their normal occupational field of communications. Plus, Heaney and Troy exercised their leadership skills by delegating specific tasks to be accomplished and gained an overall feeling of commitment to their fellow Marines of past and present.

“It feels fantastic to have the opportunity to help out a fellow Marine,” Heaney said.

This is a perfect example of the camaraderie and esprit de corps Marines have had for 226 years. The project also demonstrated to Garcia’s neighbors the commitment the Marines have to their community and to former Leathernecks – “Once a Marine always a Marine.”

CM

Our citizen-soldiers are a national asset we depend upon, while being value added members of the civilian workforce at the same time.

Allen E. Weh, Chairman, ESGR

VMGR-452 brings airlift support to Northern Edge

Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher Knapp
Joint Information Bureau-Eielson AFB

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska – A Marine Corps air transport squadron from Stewart Air National Guard Base, Newburg, N.Y., provided valuable assistance by flying members of the 1st Combat Camera Squadron (1 CTCS) and members of the Joint Information Team (JIT) for Northern Edge 2002, April 21.

Fixed-Wing Marine Refueling Transport Squadron 452 provided logistical support with a KC-130 flying from Elmendorf Air Force Base to Eielson Air Force Base, to document the events and tell the story of what is taking place in Alaska's premier joint training exercise.

"Northern Edge gives us a great training environment because we have the opportunity to fly constant missions," said Marine Corps Cpl. Richard Austin, a loadmaster on the KC-130. He went on to say how the exercise also provides opportunities to keep the unit qualified and helps to keep their "minds in the game."

The primary mission of the unit includes

mid-air refueling and transporting both cargo and personnel.

"Training in Alaska will prepare our airmen for working in cold weather," said Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Claude Gillman, the KC-130 flight engineer. "Even though we get plenty of training in New York, nothing can compare to the actual environment. The training is really good, especially for our maintenance guys."

Northern Edge brings together many services and gives them a chance to interact and learn together.



Air Force Staff Sgt. Cherie A. Thurlby

Capt. Jeffrey Murphy, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 452, looks out from the nose of a KC-130.

"It is always beneficial to work with the other services in any sense," said Air Force Senior Airman Myles Cullen, a photojournalist with 1 CTCS. "Simply put, there is no possible way we could have made the trip without the Marines' support."

The flight cut roughly seven hours off the travel time it would have taken if members of 1 CTCS and the JIT had driven. In addition, it provided the two groups with the rare opportunity of passing over the highest mountain in North America - Mt. McKinley.

One of the primary goals of the 1 CTCS and JIT is to tell the story of this year's exercise and document the events taking place. With help from the transport squadron the 1 CTCS and JIT personnel will have more time to spend working on their mission.

According to the members of the transport squadron they are ready, if called, to provide support for Operation Enduring Freedom.



New Camp Pendleton Reserve Training Center honors reserve Medal of Honor recipient

Sgt. Anthony Shipp
4th LAR Bn.

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — The Sergeant Darrell S. Cole Reserve Training Center, here, was dedicated April 14 during a ceremony attended by more than 600 Marines and their families. The \$7.5 million state-of-the-art facility is located in the Las Flores area and will be the home center for Company A and Headquarters and Service Company, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Bn.

"Dedicating the Training Center after Sgt. Cole has a special meaning for reserve Marines," said Lt. Col. Andy Pappas, 4th LAR Bn. commanding officer. "As a reserve sergeant, Sgt. Cole was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery at Iwo Jima, and as a further tribute, we should never forget the 17 sailors who lost their lives when the USS Cole (DDG 67) suffered a cowardly terrorist attack."

"The new training facility next to 1st LAR Bn. will increase combat readiness. The proximity will ensure regular training opportunities with an active duty LAR unit," said Lt. Col. Ken Amidon, 4th LAR Bn. inspector-instructor.



Sgt. Anthony Shipp

Maj. Gen. David Bice, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Mr. Tom Quinn, general contractor, Lt. Col. Ken Amidon, 4th LAR Bn. inspector-instructor, Col. Roy Chevallier, 4th MarDiv chief of staff, and Lt. Col. Andy Pappas, 4th LAR Bn. commanding officer, cut the ribbon at the new Sgt. Darrell S. Cole Reserve Training Center at Camp Pendleton.

U.S., Thai Marines share in jungle survival skills training

Cpl. Mark S. Allen

Marine Corps Base, Camp Butler

SATTAHIP, Thailand – Eighteen Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company Marines participated in a three-day jungle-survival-training scenario May 14-16, learning how to survive in the jungle in a combat situation.

Thai reconnaissance marines conducted the training, bringing insight to the indigenous conditions of the Thai jungles and the obstacles foreign military units may face.

“What I want my Marines to walk away with from this training is the ability to survive and fight in jungle surroundings,” said U.S. Marine Capt. Chris Emmerson, supporting arms liaison team commander, 3rd ANGLICO, 4th Marine Division.

A reserve unit from Long Beach, Calif., 3rd ANGLICO, provides training to the Thais on fire support tactics, communications during artillery support and how to analyze a perimeter for possible enemy artillery.

“Camaraderie is the big picture here. It’s like the jungle training was just an added bonus,” said U.S. Marine Sgt. Sean Bunch, fire control team chief, 3rd ANGLICO. “The main focus here is to make sure we’re all on the same sheet of music, because you never know if we’ll have to work to-



PH2 Aaron Ansarov

With the steady assistance of a Thai military instructor, Cpl Jason Dunkelberg, 3rd Recon BN, Okinawa, Japan slowly attempts to capture an angry Cobra.

gether again some day.”

The Thai Reconnaissance Marines also appreciated the conduct of the U.S. Marines throughout the training.

“I would like to work with the U.S. Marines again, because I know I could depend on them in combat,” said Thai Marine Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Pranom Yodrug, Company A, Reconnaissance Battalion.

According to Emmerson, learning to catch cobras was the highlight of the survival training. The snakes are prevalent throughout the Thai jungles. During a presentation in front of 300 spectators, Cpl. Jason Giffen, radio operator, 3rd ANGLICO, volunteered to catch the deadly snake using the training he had learned only moments before.

“It was a lot to have on my shoulders,” Giffen said. “I didn’t want to get bit in front of all those people. I was more scared of the three-star general watching me than the snake.”

Giffen succeeded in catching the cobra. He then killed it and mixed the blood with Thai whiskey and passed it around to his Marines. The Thai Marines believe that consuming the blood of the snake not only strengthens their bodies, but their spirit as well, Emmerson said.



Army Sgt. Frank Magni

Marine Sgt. Jason Morrison, 3rd Recon Bn., bites into a toad during a jungle survival class. The class was a part of Exercise Cobra Gold being held throughout Thailand May 14-28.

CM

RESERVE MARINES HELP TELL THE MARINE CORPS STORY DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Cpl. Nelson Akeredolu

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Recently, American citizens got an opportunity to take an inside look at the Marine Corps and other organizations that help make their lives better and safer. Three Marine Forces Reserve units joined over 100 federal government, military, private and non-profit organizations to celebrate Public Service Recognition Week with a large exhibit on the National Mall, May 9-12.

National Public Service Recognition Week, celebrated annually the first Monday through Sunday in May, began in 1985 as an event to spotlight and honor the men, women and organizations who dedicate themselves to our Nation as public servants.

“It is important to remember that service members are public servants. They are DoD employees who are public servants,” said Tom Findtner, Department of Defense spokesman for Public Service Recognition Week. “National Public Service Recognition Week is an opportunity to honor all our public servants from the local level all the way up to the federal level, including our service members in uniform.”

According to Findtner, the week is also about educating the public about the things government agencies and military services do.

Joining this educational effort were members of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA) 773, based in Atlanta, Ga.; D Company, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battal-

ion from Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. and H Battery, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment out of Richmond, Va. The Marines presented static displays of aircraft, weapons and equipment ranging from the M16A2 Service Rifle to the Light Armored Vehicle (LAV) with its 25 mm chain-gun.



Sgt. Kevin Brown

Capt. Kevin Netherton, a pilot from HMLA-773, Atlanta, Ga. helps a visitor get the feel of an AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopter.

In addition to the Reserves, Marines from the Combat Instructor Company, The Basic School; Marine Corps Systems Command; Marine Corps Warfighting Lab, all from Quantico, Va., and Recruiting Station Frederick, Md., also presented an array Marine “toys”.

The free exhibit, now in its 10th year, has become very popular. Organizers estimate it drew approximately 90,000 people last year and is likely to surpass that number this year.

It's easy to see why it has become a crowd favorite. The many interactive and hands-on static displays, such as a Marine Corps AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopter, a Navy Dive Demonstration Tank, an Army M1A2 Abrams tank, a 30-foot rock climbing wall, and an Air Force sponsored Winston Cup

NASCAR race car and high-tech flight simulator, were informative as well as entertaining.

“Public response has been great today,” said Capt. Kevin Netherton, a Huey pilot with HMLA-773. “The kids have been really excited and some of the adults get just as excited as the kids.

They love looking at things like the aircraft and climbing in and out of the cockpit.”

The National Mall exhibit, sponsored by Public Employees Roundtable and the Presidents Interagency Council on Administration Management, is one of the largest activities of the week. The event not only pays tribute to public servants in and out of uniform, but also provides a forum for the Armed Services to interact with the general public and display new and interesting tools of their trade.

“This event helps to keep the military in the main stream. Exhibits like this let [the American public] know that they are well protected and that their tax dollars are being well used. It is better to see it than to just read about it,” said Army Master Sgt. Eric Proctor, Operations Non-commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) for Military District of Washington and the NCOIC for the event.

This point was not lost on the Marines who participated in the exhibit.

“I think it is very important to have the Marine Corps and all the other services represented in front of the public like this, especially in the Nation's Capitol,” said Sgt. Michael D. Niman, marketing and public affairs representative for RS Frederick, Md.

"It's important because, [in Washington, D.C.], you have many people from all over the country who come from places where there may not be a military base. Here they get to see a lot of things that their tax dollars go towards, that they support, and are here to defend the country. Things that they normally might not get a chance to see. Here, they get to see the Marines and other service members and they get to see all the gear that we work with. Hopefully it gives them a better idea of what is here to defend the nation," said Niman.

Members of the public attending the event also voiced similar sentiments.

"It is all very impressive," said Sandra Sands of Long Island, N.Y., a tourist



Sgt. Kevin Brown

Lance Cpl. Marshall Hevron stands by as visitors check out the inside of an LAV.

visiting Washington, D.C. "As a layperson, you really don't understand where your [taxpayer] money is going to, especially when it comes to security. You speculate when you see it on the news, and you catch

glimpses of the equipment and weaponry the Marines and the Navy use in pictures. But, when you see it hands-on, it is much more impressive than via television."

Other attendees saw these exhibits as a necessary effort by the Armed Services to communicate with the public.

"Military personnel are a mirror of the public," said, Karsten Ackermann, a German citizen currently working and residing in Northern Virginia. "People who come from the public and join the military still belong to the public. So, they should always stay in close contact with the public. These [Marines] have done a great job of introducing themselves to the public. The men here seem very good at what they do."



MARINES GET FIRED UP AT EGLIN RANGE

Air Force 1st Lt. Karen Roganov

AAC Public Affairs

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Marines, big guns and big rounds were the order of the day.

About 120 reserve members of Delta Company, 8th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, from Columbia, S.C., conducted live gunnery training for the first time on Eglin's range March 17-31.

"This is our final exam, the highlight of our qualification training and primary measure of our readiness to go to war," said Maj. Sam Strotman, Delta Company commander.

The combat crews seemed to epitomize that "oohrah" Marine enthusiasm while firing off the 120-millimeter "SABO" rounds, which are followed by a flame burst out the gun barrel and a boom that shakes the ground.

SABO rounds, which travel 1-mile per second use kinetic energy to punch a hole through an enemy tank and cause havoc inside, according to Gunnery Sgt. John D. Thomas, master gunner, who describes the work as "shootin' big bullets and blowin' up stuff."

On board the Abrams M1-A1 tank, the team consists of a driver, ammunition loader, tank commander who directs the combat action, and a gunner.

"Eglin's range had perks over other training sites because of its moving targets spread over a wider area. They are more challenging to find and hit, and the fact that the range was unfamiliar, preventing the same routine,"

said Capt. Matthew S. Youngblood, an inspector and instructor for the training.

And it seems the training pays off when it's time to call on the Marines.

The unit was one of the first to be mobilized during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-1991, according to the team.

Delta Company conducted the initial breach into Kuwait to clear the way for follow-on units. They broke through the main barrier the enemy had built up, the "offensive line," consisting of mines, artillery and other things.

"When they go to combat, this tank is their home," said Thomas. "They eat on it; they sleep on it."



Air Force 1st Lt. Karen Roganov

Lance Cpl. Brian Blanton passes a round to a fellow Marine for storage in a tank.



Joint Service Open House

The public gets an inside look at the Marine Corps

Cpl. Nelson Akeredolu

Marine Forces Reserve, Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Members of the general public were treated to a unique and thrilling look at the men and women of the Marine Corps and other uniformed services at the Joint Service Open House 2002 held at Andrews Air Force Base, May 17-18.

The JSOH, which has been an annual event since 1977 in conjunction with Armed Forces Day, is an opportunity for military services to entertain and educate the public about military operations and capabilities through static displays and dynamic demonstrations.

“This event is geared toward both the military and the general public,” said Col. Mike Wyka, chairman of the JSOH committee. “It’s an opportunity for the military to say thank you to the public for its’ support, and it also allows [the public] to come in and see the machinery and weaponry that we use to protect the American public.”

B Company, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR), based at Ft. Dietrich, Md.; Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 461 based at Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C.; and Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (VMAQ) 3 from MCAS, Cherry Point, N.C. were just a few of the units representing the Marine Corps at the event.

“I like being out here,” said Sgt. Edward Esposti, Instructor-Inspector staff, B Co., 4th LAR. “It gives us a chance to show the public what we are all about. We can show them why they should feel safe because of who we are and the equipment that supports us.”

Although the event drew upwards of 160,000 people, the fate of JSOH 2002 was once in doubt. “Obviously when we had the attacks on 9-11, all military bases literally shut down,” said Wyka. “Some bases still have very high levels of security, including Andrews Air Force Base. So, we had to find a way to go through all the extra security and the costs associated with that to provide a show this year.”

Attendees rewarded the efforts of JSOH committee and other organizers with their enthusiasm. “There has been an overall positive response,” Wyka said. “The people who are actually out here performing are very happy we had the show as well. They thought that it was a great thing that we said terrorism was not going to get the best of us.”

This year’s JSOH boasted static displays of some of the



Sgt. Kevin Brown

Cpl. James M. Santoro, of B Co., 4th LAR Bn., Frederick, Md., helps young visitors check out the LAV’s turret and driver’s seat at the Joint Service Open House.

military’s most effective equipment, weapons and aircraft. Adults and children alike marveled at displays such as a Marine Corps EA-6B Prowler (Electronic Attack) plane, the giant Air Force C-5 Galaxy and Marine Corps C-130J Hercules. Even smaller displays like the new digitally designed Marine Corps camouflage uniforms drew a lot of interest.

The JSOH also offers one of the finest air shows in the country. This year the show included performances by the Army’s Golden Knights Parachute team and the legendary Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron: the Blue Angels. Marine aviators thrilled the crowd with astonishing aerial maneuvers by a C-130 and a demonstration of the AV-8B Harrier II jet.

On the ground, Marine aviators enjoyed showing their aircraft to the public.

“I love telling people about the aircraft and sharing sea stories with the other aviators that are around,” said Capt. Timothy Davis, an EA-6B pilot with VMAQ-3. “People like talking about the planes and their enthusiasm makes it worthwhile.”

“It is also good exposure for the young kids,” said 1st Lt. Jenny Grieves, a CH-53 Sea Stallion pilot with HMH-461. “If they come here and they had some previous interest in doing the kind of things we do, it lets them see close up what we do and what we are all about, so that they can have something to aspire to,” she said as she helped a wide-eyed youngster aboard her helicopter.

“Showing the American people what we can do here today means them having faith in us tomorrow. That’s the way it has always been,” said Esposti, summing up the event.



Marine recruits America's finest for NYPD

Cpl. Paula M. Fitzgerald

Camp Lejeune Public Affairs

NEW YORK – While serving as one of America's finest, Alex Kitsakos doubles as one of New York's finest.

Staff Sgt. Kitsakos, as he is known by his Marine brethren, or Police Officer Kitsakos, as his peers at the New York Police Department know him, currently is a Marine reservist and a recruiter for the NYPD.

"I was attending college with a friend who was in the reserves. He went to a recruiting station in Flatbush, Brooklyn to get a sticker," said Kitsakos. "The recruiter would only give him a sticker on one condition: if he would give a name of someone who would be interested in joining the Corps as a recruiter. Of course, my friend thought of me."

At a relatively young age, Kitsakos' father taught him the Marines' hymn.

"My father, who I'm proud to say was in the Coast Guard, showed me a poster of a Marine when I was three or four," stated the Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, native. "It stuck with me for years, and later on, I always felt that Marines were the epitome of class and strength."

After deciding to join the Marines, Kitsakos, who graduated boot camp at Parris Island, S.C., spent 10 years (1991-2000) on active-duty and aided

efforts during Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

"I love being a Marine. I loved being a recruiter because I believed in what I advised people to do," he said.

Even though his Marine Corps career was going well, Kitsakos had other aspirations.

"Ever since I was a little kid, I've wanted to be an NYPD police officer. Kojack was a favorite show of mine growing up, and I've grown up believing that New York is truly the most exciting city in the world."

According to Kitsakos, a main draw for becoming a part of the NYPD was that there was always something happening, and never a dull moment.

"Strangely enough, my last day of active duty was also the first day of the NYPD academy.

"I was the oldest in my company of 33, but I still came in first in P.T. (physical training). I was also the company sergeant which is like the guide at boot camp," reminisced Kitsakos.

He credits his quick adjustment to life in the NYPD to his time in the Corps.

"I think that the Marine Corps is the best foundation for becoming a police officer. That's why we're always eager to recruit former Marines into our ranks."

Before serving as a recruiter for the NYPD, Kitsakos spent a month with the 32d Precinct in Harlem field training, where policing was "quite different than the next four months spent at the Midtown North Precinct patrolling the theater (Broadway) district,

5th Avenue and parts of Times Square."

His experience and success recruiting for the Marines and the needs of the NYPD led Kitsakos to the recruitment section.

"I have to take a different approach when recruiting for the NYPD because when I would get someone to sign a contract for the Marines, I'd have to follow up constantly making sure they were doing well in school, staying away from the wrong groups of people and staying away from drugs," he explained.

"Now it takes all of three minutes to convince someone to consider the benefits of becoming a police officer."

However, for one weekend each month and two weeks each year, Kitsakos works at the Marine Corps Public Affairs Office in Manhattan.

"I've worked with him for nearly two years as his commanding officer," said Maj. David Anderson.

"He's been able to combine many unique qualities of a Marine staff non-commissioned officer and a civilian soldier to make an exceptional product.

"During 9-11, he not only was a leader in my office, but he was a leader on the ground representing both uniforms in an extraordinary manner.

"When our shop went into action September 11, he performed his public affairs mission and became an operational arm for the NYPD."

Kitsakos helped fortify the perimeter around 1 Police Plaza NYPD Headquarters, helped set up rifle posts, threat-assessed all incoming mail and packages and aided in the development of anthrax prevention procedures after the terrorist attacks on the United States.

"I joined the NYPD to catch the bad guys, to put it bluntly. I do whatever I can to aid that mission even though I'm not out there right now.

"Hopefully, soon I'll be able to get back on the streets to earn the respect of a police officer who has done his time out there," said Kitsakos.

CM



Cpl. Paula M. Fitzgerald

Staff Sgt. Kitsakos speaks with Sgt. Jeff Burton, scout observer with II Marine Expeditionary Force Liaison Element, during a recent job fair here, about becoming an officer with the NYPD.

Reserve Marines receive employer support from **ESGR**

Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS – When reserve Marines deploy, as many have in response to the global war on terrorism, the impact is felt not only by their loved ones but also by their employers.

From east to west, blue collar to white collar, reserves around the nation comprise 50 percent of our total military force. They work as civilians, but answer the call to duty when our country needs them.

Balancing civilian employment and military duty requires communication between reserves and their employers to avoid conflicts when a reserve has to train or gets activated to participate in a real-world operation.

To promote understanding between reserve members and their civilian employers, the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) was formed in 1972.

“When a unit gets activated, one of our reserve unit liaisons lets us know, and we brief the reserves and their employers about the reserves’ rights,” said Army Sgt. 1st Class Richard Arndt, non-commissioned officer in-charge, ESGR Marketing Employment, Arlington, Va.

If a reserve has more of a personal problem, an ombudsman, who is trained to handle specific problems one on one, will help the reserve find the best possible solution, said Arndt.

“Most of the time we’re a success—letting the employer understand the law and the duty the reserve is doing,” said Army National Guard Lt. Col. Jeff Soto, ombudsman services, ESGR.

To make sure reserves were taken care of while defending our country,

the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) was passed in 1994. In general, this act of Congress lets employers know the laws that protect mobilized reserves during their time in service and when they return.

“It’s a great program,” said Marine Lt. Col. Patrick Coffey, peacetime wartime support team, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines, Garden City, N.Y. “It’s a good feeling to know someone is looking out for you while you’re mobilized.”

“When a reserve service member comes home from an exercise or an operation, he still rates his old job, plus, the same pay,” said Coffey.

Some employers take it upon themselves to lend a hand to the reserves being mobilized. They go above and beyond the laws set by USERRA—extending benefits or making up the difference between military and civilian pay. The New York City Police Department is one of those employers.

“Even though I’m mobilized I still get paid my same salary from the NYPD, plus I’ll still have my same job and pay when I get deactivated,” said Marine Sgt. Eduardo J. Arias, personnel chief, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines.

According to a survey done by Watson Wyatt Worldwide of 51 employers representing approximately 500,000 full-time employees, 8 out of 10 employers have gone the extra mile to compensate reserves being called to duty.

“We are proud to have the opportunity to help our activated reserve employees,” said Gwen Sparks, Verizon spokesperson.

Verizon pays the difference between the two salaries for one year.

“We are proud to have the opportunity to help our activated reserve employees.”

Gwen Sparks

Plus, employees still have their medical and dental covered for one year. Furthermore, the employees’ pension credits are still administered to them the whole time their in the service, as long as they receive an honorable discharge.

“Companies want to be apart of the nation’s response to terrorism by doing what they can for their reserve employees and families,” said Keith Lebling, spokesperson for Reserve Officer Association.

Companies are not only helping their employees, but the families of the employees as well. By keeping health and dental plans available for family members, there is one less thing for service members to worry about while deployed, said Lebling.

According to the ESGR website, ESGR will assist in any kind of conflict between a reserve’s employer and a reserve’s commitment to the military.

“The more information you give your employers before you go away, the easier it will be for you to return to civilian life,” said Coffey.

Currently, there are 4,500 volunteers serving on 54 committees throughout the nation, according to the website. For more information on ESGR, go to <http://www.ESGR.com>.

“We (United States) can’t do the job without reserves, and reserves can’t do the job without the support of their employers,” said Lebling.



I would have to praise both the individual reservists and the employers in this mobilization. We have had an extraordinary outpouring of support, understanding, willingness to put up with difficulties, accepting the glitches...it really is an extraordinary national effort.

Dr. David Chu

Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness)

Active Reserve Marine receives Navy League Award

Lance Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs

Marine Forces Reserve, Public Affairs Office

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION

YUMA, Ariz. – Master Sgt. Delphine E. Hamilton of Marine Fighter Training Squadron 401, here, has been selected to receive the 2002 General Gerald C. Thomas Award for Inspirational Leadership. She is the first female and the first active reserve to garner the Navy League's top award for enlisted Marines.

"I am still kind of in shock," said Hamilton, a native of Phoenix. "I didn't really believe it until I saw it in writing."

The Navy League of the United States, a national organization of approximately 330 councils and more than 70,000 members, presents 15 annual awards in recognition of outstanding individual leadership and achievement.



Official USMC Photo

"She sets the example for all the Marines here," said Lt. Col. William J. Harkin, executive officer of VMFT-401. "She is an outstanding mentor."

Hamilton, an 18-year veteran, is the acting sergeant major, administrative chief, and career planner for VMFT-401.

"She leads by example," said Sgt. Diana L. Delgado, orders clerk for VMFT-401. "She motivates the office and sets aside her own time to help her Marines out. She gives the female Marines something to work towards."

The award will be presented at the Centennial Navy League Convention in New York, June 28 – July 2.



MarForRes names Marines, Sailors of year



Official USMC Photo

Sgt. Jorge Melendez, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines, 4th Marine Division, has been selected as the Marine Forces Reserve Marine of the Year.



Official USMC Photo

Sgt. Michael G. Ankrum, Company B, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th MarDiv has been selected as the Marine Forces Reserve Reserve Marine of the Year.



Official USMC Photo

Petty Officer, 1st Class Elmer J. Mercado, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force Augmentation Command Element, was named Marine Forces Reserve Active Duty Sailor of the Year.

**No
Photo
Available**

Official USMC Photo

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class, Tammie C. Wetzel, Det. One, Medical Logistics Company, 4th Supply Bn., 4th Force Service Support Group, was named Marine Forces Reserve Reserve Sailor of the Year.

Wranglers wrap up AT in Iwakuni

Cpl. Kurt Fredrickson

Torii Station, Iwakuni

TORRI STATION, Iwakuni –

The Marine reservists of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 41 are paving the way for other reservists as they landed on the Station to conduct their two weeks of training May 18.

The 118 Wranglers of MALS-41 traveled from Fort Worth, Texas to take advantage of the knowledge available from the active duty Marines in Iwakuni while lending an extra hand.

“We are an intermediate-level maintenance and supply activity,” said Lt. Col. James Frawley, MALS-41 commanding officer. “We came over here for our two week annual training to support MALS-12 for operational tempo relief. This is the first time we have been in Japan, but it is probably going to be a reoccurring thing.”

While in Iwakuni, the unit will be assisting MALS-12 in several of their shops, from airframes to aviation life support. The two weeks of training here benefit the reservists in a variety of ways.

“I have gained a lot of experience with the equipment we don’t touch and even the equipment that we do,” said Lance Cpl. Gordon Little, MALS-41 flight equipment technician. “Being a reservist with limited time on the weekends, I don’t have the time to get into a large piece of equipment. This gives me the time to get a feel for the equipment.”

The larger more complex projects and equipment reserve Marines undertook involved packing parachutes and repairing life saving equipment carried on the helicopters and jets that are aboard the Station.

“Our Marines are working on a variety of items that we cannot in Fort Worth, because we do

not have that type of aircraft,” said Gunnery Sgt. John Weakley, MALS-41 aviation flight equipment division chief. “We don’t have the chance to work on many of the life rafts that the aircraft here carry.”

In addition to the chance to do their jobs for a full two weeks, the reservists now find themselves immersed in a new culture for the first time.

“For a lot of Marines, this is their first chance to get out of the continental U.S.,” Frawley said. “In the reserve program these Marines got out of boot camp and came right to Fort Worth and never left the continental U.S. They’ve never spent any extended time on active duty.”

This trip, although unusual for this reserve unit, allows the reservists to better understand where stations like Iwakuni are, what goes on here and what it is like to work in the fleet, according to Frawley.

“If we were to be called up one day, this is the job I would be doing,

and the fact that we would have to be accustomed to working with active duty Marines is important,” Little said.

Although the majority of the benefits went to the reservists, the Marines of MALS-12 also benefited from the visit.

“It’s very helpful having them here,” said Cpl. Juan Torres, MALS-12 flight equipment technician. “Just getting to work with them is building our leadership skills. Most of the Marines who work in this work center know their jobs well, and they can help the reservists to do their job.”

Although the reservists will be leaving today, their two-week visit was well worth the long journey from Texas.

“The best thing that will come out of this will be helping our fellow Marines here,” Frawley said. “We appreciate the welcome we received from MALS-12 and Marine Aircraft Group 12. They made us feel at home.”

CM



Cpl. Kurt Fredrickson

Corporal Juan Torres, MALS-12 flight equipment technician (center), demonstrates how to pack a parachute to MALS-41 flight equipment technician reservists Lance Cpl. Eric Holmes (left), and Sgt. Jeremy Proctor.

Marines lend a helping hand in Trinidad

Lance Cpl. Damian J. McGee

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs

TRINIDAD — In a recent State of the Union Address, President Bush asked all members of this country to spend at least two years in support of their neighbors, helping in whatever ways possible.

Joining in this effort, a group of Marines and sailors here as part of “Operation Weedeater” spent a day of service making repairs at St. Clare’s senior center and hospice.

“We may not be able to do everything, but we’re going to do the best we can with what we have,” said Navy Lt. William Cantrell, chaplain, Medium Marine Helicopter Squadron 764, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

Although the Marines were limited in time, their best was more than anyone could have expected, or more than anyone had done for the hospice in the past.

“We are extremely grateful,” said Dr. Alan Patrick, who coordinated the effort on behalf of the hospice. “No one has ever taken the time to do something like this for us. People around here may not know that it was the Marines

who did this, but they’ll definitely see a ‘new’ building every time they walk by.”

The Marines removed mold from portions of the building, painted the walls surrounding the hospice, and began sanding and repainting the building itself. The work the Marines completed in one day would have cost thousands of dollars.

“We know it’s not much,” said Cpl. Halain Suarez-Alvarez, 4th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (4th ANGLICO), West Palm Beach, Fla. “However, if the little that we’re doing here will make the people who reside here a little happier, or remove an eyesore from this community, then we’ve done our job.”

During the day of work, the employees of the hospice provided a local meal for the Marines.

“If you feed Marines they’ll pretty much do whatever you ask them,” Cantrell said. “It was good for the Marines to be able to experience a little of the culture while here.”

At the end of a long day of work, the Marines, led by Cantrell, took time to provide a religious service for the residents of the home, many of whom are not physically able to attend church or even receive communion without assistance from an employee of the hospice.

For many of the Marines, the religious service was the most rewarding part of the event.

“We knew that the work we did would be appreciated,” Suarez-Alvarez said. “However, being able to sit in a room with the ‘Trinis’ and share in worship was a wonderful experience. Hearing them sing so beautifully, despite their age or condition, just reaffirmed to us, during this time of conflict throughout the world, that love of man and God is universal. That is definitely the feeling we experienced here today.”

The feeling was definitely a mutual one, and only the beginning of the difference the Marines made for the residence of the hospice.

“I don’t know if the Marines understand how effective their efforts will be,” Patrick said. “Not only are these Marines making the home of these people a little more comfortable to live in, but the residents here understand that they are from the U.S. and in the military. So, in addition to the residents here having a positive outlook on the military, hopefully the community will take more notice of the hospice and continue to maintain its newly reinvigorated beauty.”



Lance Cpl. Damian J. McGee

Marines from 4th ANGLICO spend time giving a local hospice a makeover.

Communications Company shines up Lytle Memorial Park in Cincinnati

Sgt. Jennifer J. Antoine

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

CINCINNATI, Ohio - In the middle of Lytle Memorial Park, stands a U.S. Marine Corps memorial, which has endured Mother Nature's elements for 82 years. Marines from Communications Co., Headquarters and Service Battalion, here, recently spent part of their drill weekend restoring the memorial to its original beauty.

The memorial is a bronze three-dimensional representation of the Eagle, Globe and Anchor that is mounted on a 500-pound rough-cut block of granite. According to the Marine Corps League, there are only three other statues in the world that have the full globe and eagle.

The memorial has been in the park since July 4th, 1921. It was donated in

honor of the 53 Marines killed in action from Hamilton County.

"It is important to keep this looking great," said Gunnery Sgt. Anthony J. Spriggs, Peacetime Wartime Support Team, Cincinnati. "We are a part of something special. We have pride on our service, that's what we're about."

The unit started planning for the restoration last summer, but after the events of 9/11 and other operational commitments, they were unable to begin until this spring.

The unit agreed that this was time well spent. They used the time to learn from and listen to stories from the Marine Corps League members and built esprit de corps.

"We are Marines, doing things like this helps us remember why we do what we do," said Spriggs.



Maj. Markus Hartman



Maj. Markus Hartman

The Marines from Comm. Co. spend part of their drill cleaning the Marine Corps Memorial. The completed restoration is shown on the right.



Chaplains play important role in Marine Corps

Lance Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

MARINE FORCES RESERVE, New Orleans - In times of conflict or peace, the chaplains of the Marine Corps are always fighting a constant battle for increased moral, ethical and spiritual development. The men and women who serve in this nation's military come from numerous religious backgrounds.

Unbiased, chaplains strive to achieve better understanding of the diverse religions for Marines to make them a stronger spiritual backbone for the Corps.

"Chaplains are tasked to provide for the free religious expression that the people of this nation have the right to," said Rear Adm. Darold Bigger, deputy chief of chaplains for total forces, U.S. Naval Reserve.

In addition to conducting baptisms,

weddings and funerals, chaplains take part in workshops and retreats on marriage counseling to help build a stronger foundation for Marines and their families to stand on. Programs for premarital relationships are also offered to preserve and enhance commitment and friendship. Along with being there in times of distress, chaplains are trained to prepare for unforeseen events.

"Being a chaplain is a lifelong preparation," said Capt. Moses L. Stith, force chaplain, Marine Forces Reserve. "We have to be prepared for the unexpected."

In troubled times, like in today's climate of terror, chaplains interact with Marines of various faith groups to provide guidance for those who may be experiencing moments of uncertainty or searching for another source of self-assurance. Sometimes it's just important to be able to know that the chaplain

is there to consult if needed, said Stith.

"It's important for them to see us," said Stith. "They see the chaplain, and they gain another level of self-confidence."

It is our responsibility to facilitate things for the Marines, said Stith. Being a spiritual advisor in the Marines is uniquely different from any other profession of faith.

Chaplains are afforded an opportunity not readily offered in civilian life, said Bigger. We gain a broader insight into the broader world by working in a religiously stimulating environment with the diversity of hundreds of denominations of faith. It is a responsibility not easily fulfilled, but never turned down by a chaplain.

"I enjoy working with the Marines," said Bigger. "They hold a higher level of morality, loyalty and patriotic value in their military personnel."

Views from around the Corps...

Sgt. Robert Piper

Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton

No more than a week ago, I walked past a field where a group of Marines were conducting a police call. Actually, three lance corporals picked up the trash as five corporals watched. Yet people wonder why retentions is getting harder every year.

While I am all for noncommissioned officers (NCO's) taking charge, it doesn't mean just because you are a corporal or a sergeant, you're suddenly too good to work. It's been a while, but I don't think promotion warrants state, "as a newly appointed NCO, you now are above working and will operate strictly as an overseer of Marines."

Fact is, four of those corporals should have been picking up trash alongside those Marines. According to a recent "Marines Times" survey, nine out of 10 Marines are unhappy with their leadership. Why? Personally, I think it starts with the young

NCO.

I hear it every month from Marines all over this base. "I can't wait till the first, because then I'll be promoted and have some fun watching the other Marines work while I get to take it easy."

Hello! Whatever happened to, "I am forever conscious of each Marine under my charge, and by example will inspire him to the highest standards possible, from the NCO creed? Leading by example doesn't involve watching from afar, rather observing from within.

I ask every leader to think back to a time when they were new to our Corps and didn't rate the "privileges" that come with increased rank. Which leaders did you respect most, who would you work for and who did you just appear to work for?

I'll guarantee your answer involved someone who was not only squared away and in shape, but worked side by side with his Marines. What was his

rank, by the way? A sergeant? Maybe a staff sergeant? Perhaps higher?

What about looking at it from the other directions: Were you happy working for someone who didn't meet this standard?

Corporals are called leaders "in the trenches." This means intimately involved with everything their Marines do on a daily basis, not standing by as Marines struggle to get jobs done. And sergeants, well, everybody knows we are where the tire hits the pavement.

Not only are we supervisors, but we're also experts in our fields, working whenever, doing whatever, to accomplish the mission at hand. Which of you do this, day in and day out? So, if nine out of 10 Marines aren't satisfied, whose fault is it?

Well, it's ours, but we can change their opinion- with a little work.

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Women Marines Association

The Women Marines Association will host their Biennial Convention 29 August 2002 - 3 September 2002 at the Marriott City Center, 30 South 7th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402. The WMA celebrates the past contributions of women to the Corps and provides a support network for mentoring Marines serving on active duty today. The WMA 2002 Convention theme is "The Greatest Generation - Passing the Sword". General Michael J. Williams, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and Robin L. Higgins, Department of Veterans Affairs Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, will be featured speakers at the convention. Registration information can be obtained from local WMA Chapters, through the WMA website at www.womenmarines.org or by contacting the Minnesota Leathernecks Chapter President, D. Palmer, at 651-459-4852.

WMA works in the community to promote patriotism by supporting local veterans groups and preserving the history of women Marines. Efforts include support of Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC) and hospitalized veterans. WMA members serve as role models and mentors for new and future Marines. Membership in WMA is open to all women serving or having served honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps or the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Additional information on the Association is available at the web site and at 1-888-525-1943.

NCO steps up to plate during Rolling Thunder 2002



Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

FORT BRAGG, N.C. –

The five-ton truck, part of a re-supply mission, sank deeply into a mud hole and it was time for the convoy commander to make a decision, not just for himself, but also for his Marines and the overall mission.

The convoy commander, usually an officer or staff non-commissioned officer, was reserve Cpl. John W. Beamer, vehicle operator,

Company A, 6th Motor Transport Battalion, Orlando, Fla. The re-supply mission was only the third that the 5-year veteran ever commanded.

“In Motor-T, junior enlisted Marines have to step up to the higher billets because we do not have a lot of Marines in the higher ranks,” said Sgt. Mario A. Cardenas, platoon sergeant, Co. A, 6th Motor-T.

The drivers of Motor-T have to be on the ball during the younger ranks. They have to constantly be working on improving their professional driving skills, said Cardenas.

“Beamer is one of the most experienced drivers we have. He knows his trucks,” said Cardenas.

Beamer started his Marine Corps career in 1997 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Paris Island, S.C. He only wanted to do one thing in the Marines, and that was to be in Motor-T. Since he is a native of Orlando, the reserve unit was just around the corner from him, said Beamer.

“They use to bring Hummers to my school and I was really amazed by them, so I got into trucks,” said Beamer.

And trucks he got into. He’s a licensed driver for High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicles (Humvee) and five-ton trucks, so his command chose him to lead a re-supply convoy with six trucks—hauling 1,000 gallons of water; 800 gallons of fuel; and 92 cases of meals-ready-to-eat for the 10th Marines during Rolling Thunder, a bi-annual artillery exercise here.

“Before we started out, I talked to my Marines and told them exactly what we were doing for this run. I believe in communication; if Marines know what they have to do to complete the mission, everyone running on the same wavelength, it will run much smoother,” said Beamer.

According to Beamer, the most important aspect in this exercise is getting the supplies to the Marines and keeping

his Marines safe. During a real-world operation those Marines would be counting on Motor-T to bring them support or their mission might be in jeopardy.

As for the re-supply run, everything was running very smoothly until the five-ton with MREs sank in a mud hole. The truck was stuck, and Beamer’s leadership ability was put to the test.

Watching from the passenger side of a Hummer, he immediately told his driver to swing the vehicle around. His first concern was the driver and passenger in the five-ton. Luckily the two were fine, but the truck with the supplies was another story. It was embedded in the earth with no way to drive it out.

“When a decision has to be made concerning a mission, I want to act quickly, but not before I think for a few moments to find the best possible solution,” said Beamer.

He was the commander, so he took immediate control of the situation. First, he sent the rest of the convoy to complete its mission. Next he called for a wrecker (tow truck) to get the five-ton out of the mud. Then, he got his two other Marines together and began to unload the MREs into a Hummer for immediate transport to the 10th Marines supply point.

“When something goes wrong in a mission, I’m not one for yelling and screaming at my Marines. I talk to them and let them think about the event and how they should rectify the problem to complete the mission,” Beamer said.

Everything is a learning experience for Marines during field exercises. It gives them experience for when they have to do a real mission, he said.

“I let my Marine work the problem, so he gets hands on experience in that type of situation,” he said. In this case, his Marines helped the wrecker get the five-ton truck out, so, if something like this happens again they know what to do.

“He’s got great abilities in this field. He has become a mature NCO that gets the job done,” said Cardenas.

The re-supply mission was completed. Beamer proved himself as a leader able to overcome and adapt in a conflicting situation.

When the two-week exercise is completed, Beamer will go back to his civilian job in a security company.

“If I can lead in these kind of situations as a Marine, I feel confident in my ability as a civilian worker,” said the motivated leatherneck who also is in his senior year at University of Central Florida pursuing a degree in accounting and eventually wants to become a director of security at the company he is currently working.



Weapons Co. 1/24 Corpsman honored for bravery

Staff Sgt. Grady T. Fontana
Marketing and Public Affairs, Detroit, Mich.

MARINE RESERVE CENTER PERRYSBURG, Ohio — A Navy reserve corpsman with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, here, received top peacetime honors recently for a rescue 10 months ago after a deadly multi-vehicle pileup on Interstate-75 just north of the Michigan-Ohio border.

Petty Officer 3rd class Jeremy Walters, 32, of Bowling Green, Ohio, received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the highest Marine Corps medal given for heroism during peacetime, for pulling an unconscious man out of a burning vehicle and to safety just before it exploded.

"This medal is given by the President and signed by the Commandant," said Col. Thomas B. Sward, commanding officer of 24th Marine Regiment, Kansas City, Mo. Nominations are "heavily scrutinized" when submitted to Headquarters Marine Corps, according to Sward who flew in to present the award.

"The level of importance of the medal itself deserves public celebration," said Sward. "We wanted to make it special."

"He (Walters) had a good chance of losing his life," said Sward. "This medal is the peacetime equivalent of the Medal of Honor."

Walters claimed he didn't do anything special. "I just

did what I thought anyone would do for me if I was in that situation."

The eventful day, Aug. 17, 2001, began when a previous accident caused a long traffic jam on the interstate. Walters was in the traffic jam when a driver of a tractor-trailer failed to see the stopped traffic and rammed into a line of vehicles, causing a chain of explosions.

"I was in the front of traffic when I heard the collision," said Walters. "I saw cars burning in my side mirror." That's when instinct kicked in, and he and others ran to the scene.

Walters grabbed a fire extinguisher and attempted to put out a fire that overtook an overturned car. He soon discovered the driver trapped and unconscious. According to a witness testimony, several by-standers did nothing to assist while Walters rescued the man.

"Everyone was just sitting there (watching)," said Walters. "I saw a car burning with someone unconscious inside."

Walters kicked in the front windshield and pulled the man to safety. In the process, he sustained multiple lacerations that required 28 stitches to his leg.

"This heroic act and his level of performance under extreme pressure demonstrates what he'll do for us in combat," said Sward.

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Staff Sgt. Grady T. Fontana

Petty Officer 3rd class Jeremy Walters receives the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, which is the highest peacetime award given for heroism by the Marine Corps.



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